



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION








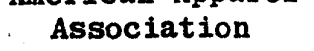



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

October 24, 1973


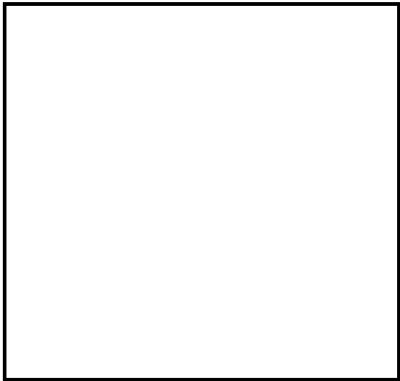


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DATE 04-21-2008 BY 60324/UC/BAW/STP/bls

THE INVESTIGATION IN THIS CASE IS
NOT COMPLETE. THIS PORTION OF THE
INVESTIGATION CONSISTS OF PART IV,
A REPORT FROM DETROIT, MICHIGAN,
DATED OCTOBER 19, 1973.

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OCTOBER 19, 1973
GERALD RUDOLPH FORD


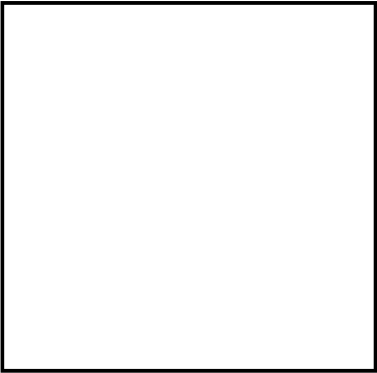
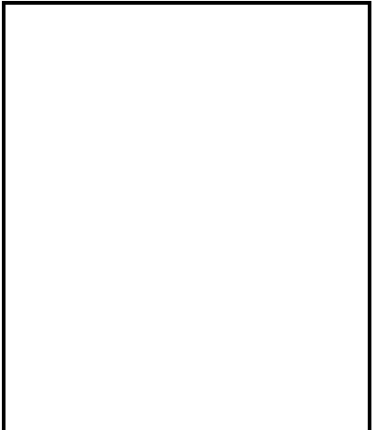
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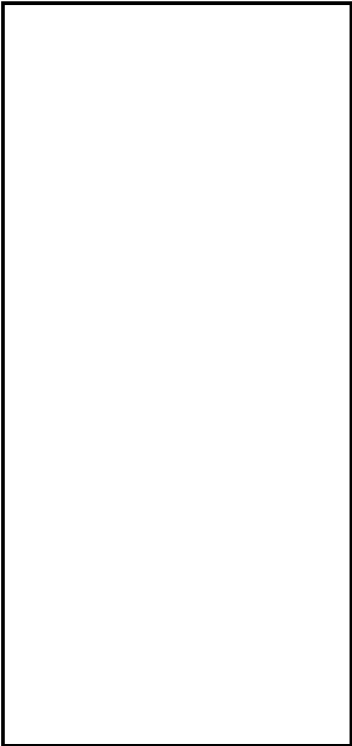




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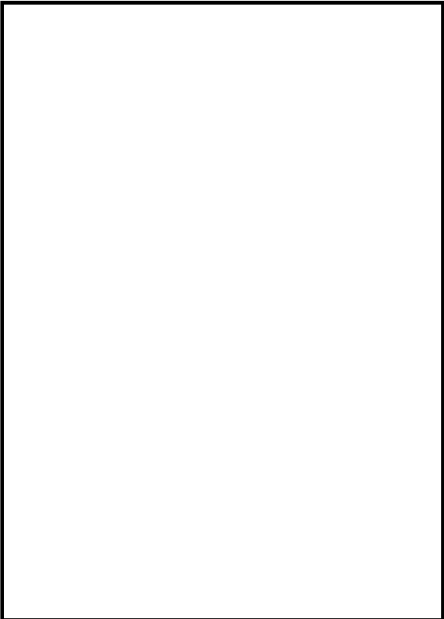
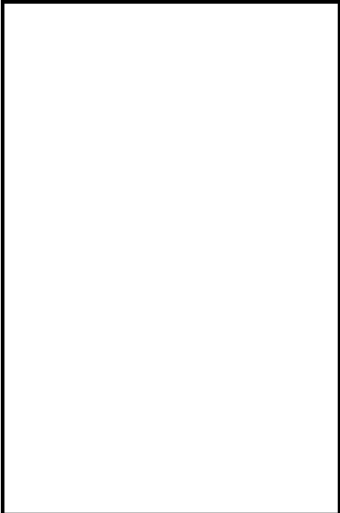
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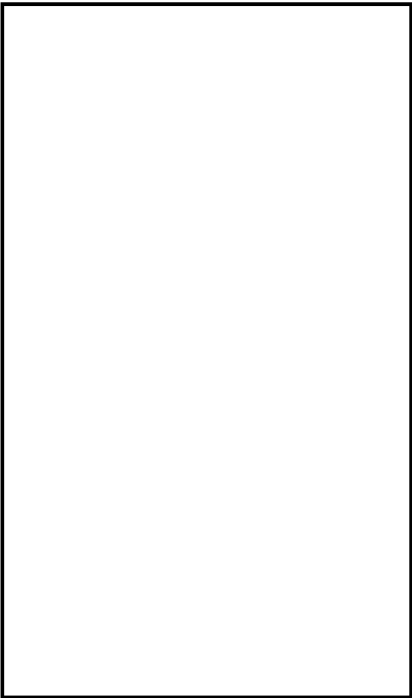


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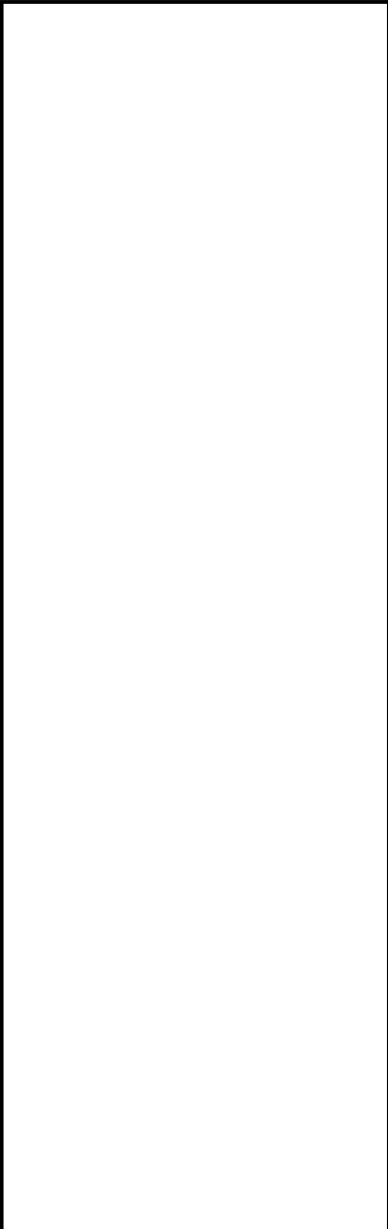
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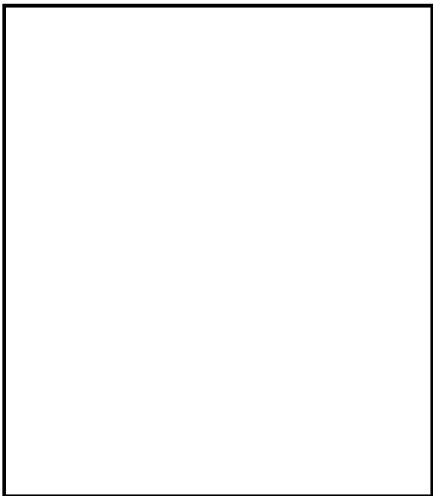
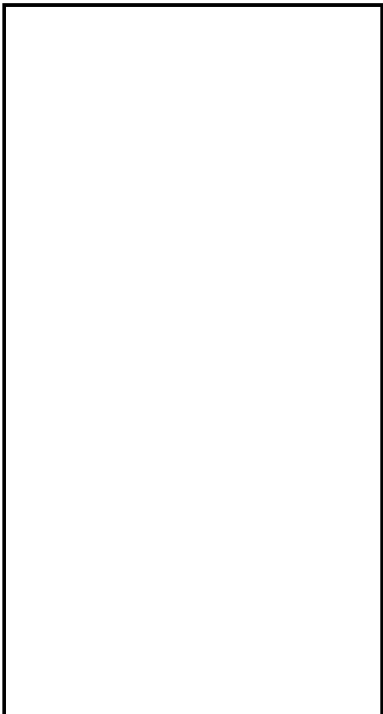
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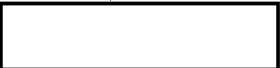
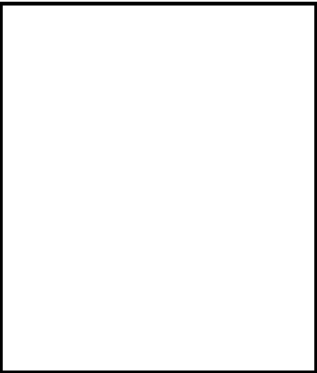

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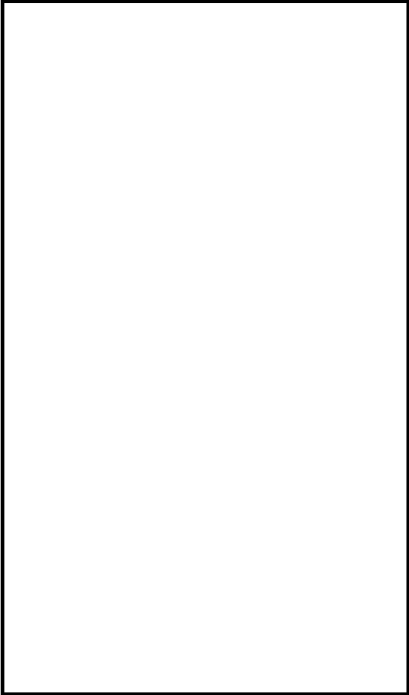


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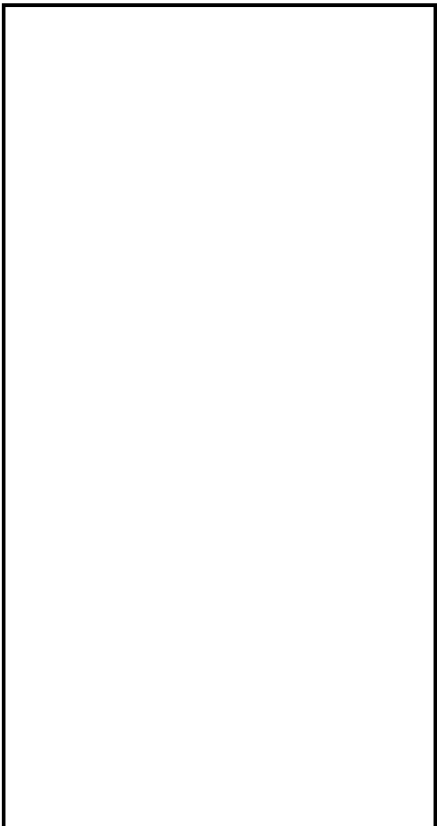
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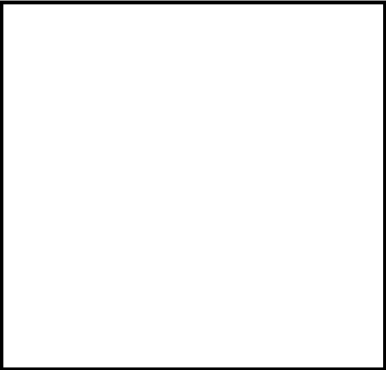
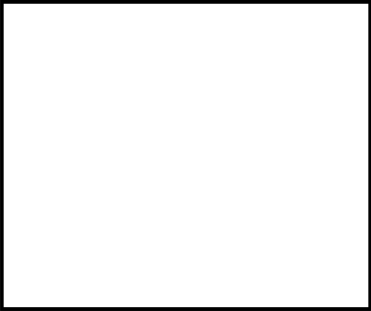


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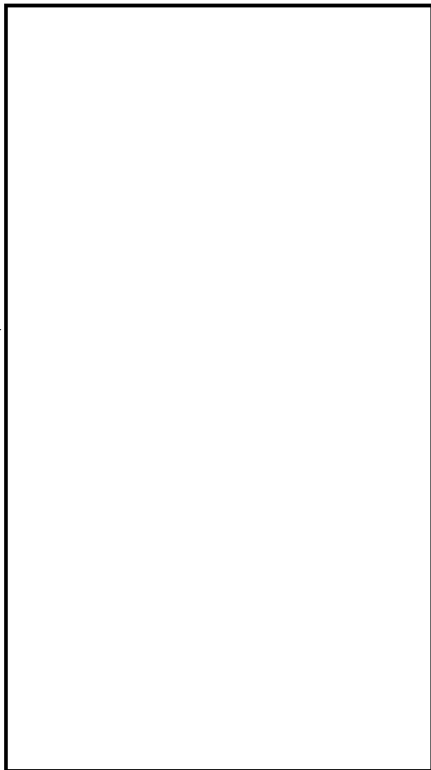
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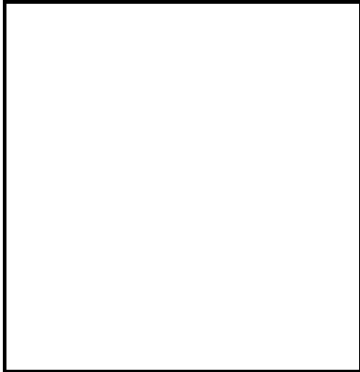
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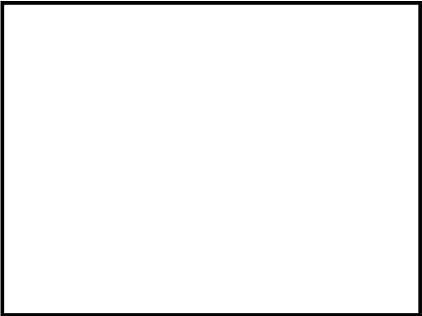
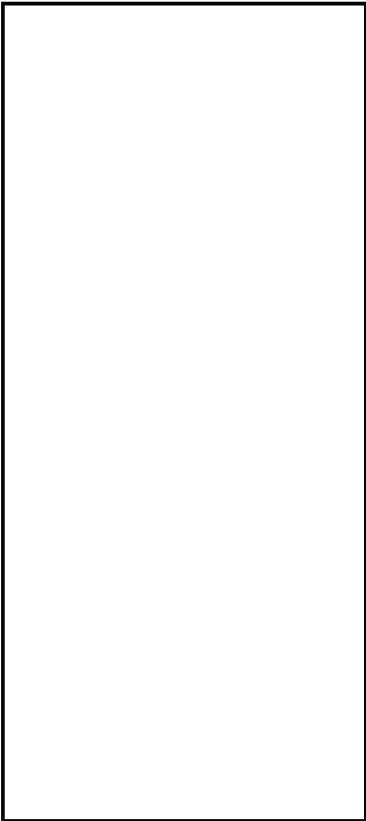

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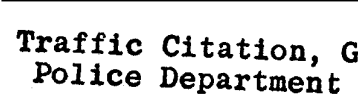

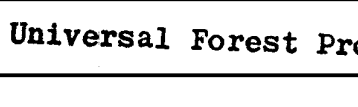


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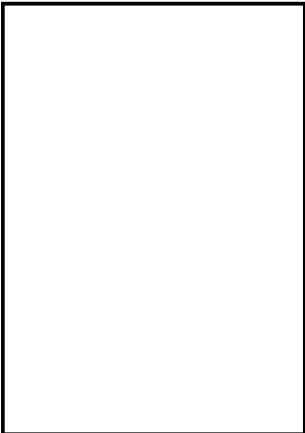

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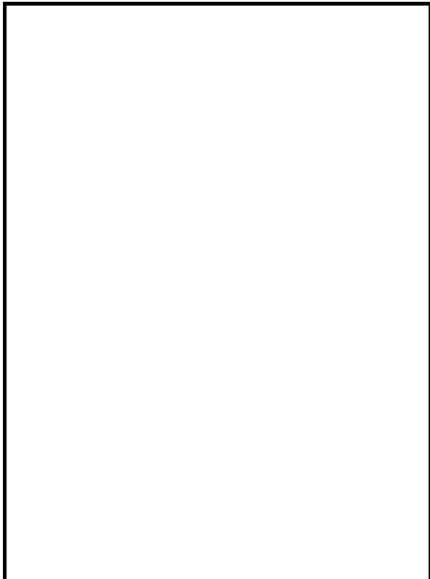



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DE 161-1355
BEY/js/mmr - 1

ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,
Michigan.

MAURICE HICKEY, Publisher, State Journal, 120 East Lansing, advised he has known GERALD FORD for several years, having met him on a couple of occasions in Washington, D.C. Mr. HICKEY stated, however, that he is originally from New York and has been in the Michigan area only for the past two years and does not know appointee well enough to make any recommendations regarding his qualifications for appointment as Vice President.

HAROLD C. FILDEY, Executive Editor, State Journal, advised he has known of GERALD R. FORD for several years, but does not know him personally. He said he met appointee on several occasions and considers appointee to be faithful to the American people and has contributed much to this country. He has made a profession of politics and, although he, FILDEY, stated he did not always agree with appointee's political views, appointee is definitely a professional of high integrity and he would recommend appointee for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
JHC/cjn - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 19, 1973:

[redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and stated he has known GERALD FORD and the FORD family for over twenty years, both socially and professionally. [redacted] advised that he would give Mr. FORD the highest possible recommendation for position of Vice President. He stated that in everything he does, he keeps the interest of the United States as first priority. [redacted] described appointee FORD as a hardworking responsive, competitive individual with high morals. [redacted] stated that he has never heard of any derogatory information in the background of appointee FORD or any members of his family.

[redacted] went on to state that this country needs the type of individual that Mr. FORD is, possessing skill, judgement, ability, and knowledge. He advised that in the area of civil rights, Mr. FORD is a moderate. [redacted] indicated that he has not heard, nor is he aware of any psychological or physical problems within the immediate FORD family.

[redacted] advised that he has the highest regard for the FORD family and especially for Mr. GERALD FORD and without hesitation feels that he will do an outstanding job based on his character and loyalty to his country. [redacted] stated that he is presently retired and had been [redacted] in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DE 161-1355
WGJ/cjn - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Lake Odessa, Michigan, on October
18, 1973:

DEFOREST A. SWIFT, City Councilman, Lake Odessa, Michigan, advised that he has been acquainted with GERALD FORD for approximately three years. SWIFT stated that his acquaintanceship with Mr. FORD has been through his political work for the Republican Party.

SWIFT advised that GERALD FORD is a man who believes in the Constitution of the United States and a man who would protect the rights of individuals under the Bill of Rights.

SWIFT advised that to the best of his knowledge he has never heard any derogatory information concerning GERALD FORD.

SWIFT stated that in his opinion GERALD FORD is an outstanding American citizen who enjoys a fine reputation in the community of Lake Odessa. SWIFT stated that GERALD FORD's character and morals are above reproach.

SWIFT described GERALD FORD as an extremely competent and able individual and he highly recommends him for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
MJH/srd - 1

SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[] of Halce Stewart
Company, located at 510 Kent Building, telephone []
residing at [] Grand Rapids,
Michigan, telephone [] advised that he is
a registered Republican and has known GERALD FORD for
approximately 25 years on a casual social-type relationship.
He stated that Mr. FORD has a yearly appointment to speak
at the Rotary Club and the Three-Hundred Dollar Club, both
in Grand Rapids, and during these visits, he will spend
a great deal of time with Mr. FORD.

[] stated that he has made \$25.00
contributions to the political fund of the Republican
Party for GERALD FORD on a yearly basis. He has not been
involved with Mr. FORD in any business or political
relationship. [] has lived in the Grand Rapids
area for the past 25 years and nothing unfavorable concerning
Mr. FORD has come to his attention. [] stated that
socially the FORDs are held in the highest esteem and conduct
themselves impeccably.

[] stated that in his opinion Mr. FORD
is highly intelligent and a completely honest individual.
[] said he would not question the loyalty of
Mr. FORD or his family to the United States. He stated his
overall moral structure is beyond reproach. He has observed
no instances of discriminatory practices by Mr. FORD or
his family.

[] advised that, to the best of his
knowledge, all of GERALD FORD's associates are of the
highest caliber.

[] said he would recommend GERALD FORD
very highly for the position of Vice President.

RAE/esj/psn - 1
DE 161-1355

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by []
[] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

[] General Motors, Fisher Body Plant #1, 300 - 36th Street, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been acquainted with Mr. GERALD R. FORD for approximately 45 years. [] attended high school with Mr. FORD and grew to know him through their joint participation in athletics. [] stated that he has known Mr. FORD in recent years as a member of the "30-30 Club", an organization composed of former members of the 1930 South High School football team, which meets every year on Thanksgiving Day. [] serves as [] of the organization, and Mr. FORD serves as Vice President and as such attends the meeting as frequently as possible. Mr. FORD last attended the meeting approximately three years ago.

[] advised that even though his contacts with Mr. FORD have been infrequent since their high school days, he feels that he knows Mr. FORD well, and he holds the appointee in his highest esteem. [] believes that Mr. FORD is of outstanding character and integrity. He feels that Mr. FORD's morals are unquestionable and he has no racial prejudices of any type.

[] stated that he knows of nothing derogatory about the appointee, and he feels that Mr. FORD has all the qualifications necessary to serve the United States as Vice President. For these reasons, [] believes that Mr. FORD is an excellent choice and he does not hesitate to recommend him highly for the position.

DE 161-1355
WGJ:kc/jbm - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at Belding, Michigan, by SA [] on October 18, 1973:

WILLIAM CRYSTLER, Chief of Police, was contacted and advised that he has been a professional associate and acquaintance of GERALD FORD for approximately 20 years.

CRYSTLER stated that the one thing about GERALD FORD that has always stood out in his mind is the fact that GERALD FORD has always had time to help and listen to the people of his Congressional district. CRYSTLER stated that in his opinion GERALD FORD is an individual who takes sincere interest in the people of his district and does everything in his power to help them when they need it.

CRYSTLER stated that GERALD FORD is a man of the highest character and moral standards and that GERALD FORD is a most loyal American citizen. CRYSTLER stated that he can think of no one in the area of Belding that enjoys a finer reputation than GERALD FORD. CRYSTLER stated that he knows very little about Mr. FORD's personal life, but that over his years of acquaintance with him he has never heard any derogatory information concerning him.

CRYSTLER stated that GERALD FORD is an individual who is honest and fair with people. CRYSTLER stated that Mr. FORD is a man who believes strongly in the Constitution of the United States.

CRYSTLER advised that in his opinion GERALD FORD is a very competent and able man and highly recommends him for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
JEM/pap:clc - 1

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ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA

[REDACTED]:

On October 17, 1973, STEVE KISHKORN, County Commissioner, Kent County, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD personally for about seven years. He described the appointee as a very effective representative of his constituents. He said Mr. FORD's character, morals, and loyalty were beyond reproach. KISHKORN stated he is unaware of any associates of Mr. FORD that could be deemed undesirable. KISHKORN stated Mr. FORD's position regarding civil rights, although not necessarily coincident with his, was open and fair as that of any American. KISHKORN could provide no information regarding the appointee's financial interests.

Mr. KISHKORN stated he would describe the appointee as the "Mr. CLEAN" of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DE 161-1355
RMB:fln/dkd - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

Mr. STEPHEN DYKEMA, partner in the firm of Mika, Meyers, Beckett and Jones Attorneys, 500 Frey Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed regarding GERALD R. FORD.

DYKEMA advised he has known Mr. FORD both socially and professionally for a period of 20 years. He stated that between the years of 1965 and 1969, he, DYKEMA, was the city attorney for Grand Rapids, Michigan, and as city attorney, he acted as legislative agent for the community of Grand Rapids. In that position, DYKEMA served as liaison between both local and federal legislators and he therefore had numerous contacts with GERALD R. FORD concerning local problems. He stated he has personally known Mr. FORD through various local civic functions and described Mr. FORD as a man of high ethics, high moral character, a man of integrity, and a man who is known to keep his word.

DYKEMA highly recommended Mr. FORD for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government, describing him as an extremely qualified individual who has the ability to get along and to work with diverse elements of the community. He was highly impressed with the organized way in which Mr. FORD executes his duties and stated Mr. FORD is known as the type of individual who gets things done on the local level.

DYKEMA advised that there was no question as to the loyalty of GERALD R. FORD to the United States Government.

DE 161-1355
RVE/ald - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted
by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted], Teleford
and Doolen, Incorporated, Construction Equipment, 3901 28th
Street, Grand Rapids, advised that he had met the appointee
approximately 10 years ago in the town of Howell, Michigan,
at a political rally. Since that time, [redacted] has seen Mr.
FORD at different community functions and has always spoken
to Mr. FORD but that this relationship was very casual in
nature.

[redacted] advised that in his opinion, Mr. FORD
is of excellent character and maintains high moral standards.
He further advised that he had no reason to question Mr. FORD's
loyalty. [redacted] advised that he did not know any of Mr.
FORD's associates but that he has never heard of him associating
with individuals of poor reputation.

[redacted] advised that he was unaware of Mr. FORD's
political views other than he appears to represent all
people of the community. [redacted] further advised that he
has never known Mr. FORD to have given special consideration
to groups or individuals.

[redacted] highly recommended Mr. FORD for his
appointed position.

DE 161-1355
WGJ:jfd - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Lake Odessa, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

GLENN DESGRANGES, Chief of Police, Lake Odessa, was contacted and advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately six years. DESGRANGES advised that his acquaintanceship with Mr. FORD has come mainly through his work with the Republican Party. DESGRANGES stated that GERALD FORD enjoys an outstanding reputation in the Lake Odessa area. DESGRANGES advised that GERALD FORD is an individual who worries about the problems of the common man in his congressional district.

DESGRANGES advised that to the best of his knowledge GERALD FORD is an individual of outstanding character and moral turpitude. DESGRANGES stated that GERALD FORD is an outstanding American citizen and has fine associates.

DESGRANGES stated that to the best of his knowledge he has never heard of anyone accusing GERALD FORD of running a dirty or illegal campaign. DESGRANGES stated that GERALD FORD has always conducted himself in a very professional manner. DESGRANGES advised that GERALD FORD is a man who believes in the Constitution of the United States and a man who would protect the rights of individuals under the Bill of Rights.

DESGRANGES advised that he would most highly recommend GERALD FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
PDU:js - 1

The following investigation was conducted
by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at
Lansing, Michigan:

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STANLEY J. DAVIS, Director, Bureau of Billing Analysis, Mutual Building, advised he was previously mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, for five terms and served as president protem of the House of Representatives for the State of Michigan for approximately four years. He said he has personally been acquainted with the appointee, GERALD R. FORD, his wife and children and father, GERALD R. FORD, SR., for approximately 30 years.

DAVIS said the appointee's wife and children as well as his father are fine individuals and knows nothing that would reflect unfavorably upon them. DAVIS said to his knowledge the appointee's wife, ELIZABETH, nee Bloomer, was married prior to her marriage to appointee in 1948, that he knows nothing derogatory regarding the former marriage. He said to the best of his knowledge the appointee was never married prior to his marriage to ELIZABETH. DAVIS said that throughout his acquaintanceship the appointee never displayed any emotional instability and to the contrary, always appeared to be an extremely stable individual.

DAVIS said he knows the appointee to be a fine individual of excellent moral character. He said to the best of his knowledge the appointee's political career is spotless with regard to any forms of corruption and that he knows of no derogatory information whatsoever concerning the appointee.

DAVIS said he is of the opinion the appointee is an excellent choice for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
RMB:jbm - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Sparta, Michigan, on October 18,
1973:

[]
[] of Sparta Distributors (retired), Sparta Avenue, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for 20 years on a personal basis. [] stated Mr. FORD is a man of outstanding character, high ethics, a man of integrity, a man of his word, and a man who is extremely responsive to the needs of his constituents. [] stated there is nothing of an unfavorable nature regarding Mr. FORD's moral character and described him as a wonderful family man. [] further advised he could provide no unfavorable information whatsoever regarding Mr. FORD's immediate family and described them as highly reputable individuals of good character. He said that at social gatherings Mr. FORD is always an extremely sober individual.

[] advised that Mr. FORD has always associated with highly reputable individuals in the community. He said Mr. FORD is an extremely loyal person to the United States Government.

[] stated he knew FORD to have practiced law for a very brief period of time subsequent to Mr. FORD's separation from the United States Navy. He could not comment in depth as to Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney due to the short period of time in which Mr. FORD practiced law.

[] advised he felt Mr. FORD to be absolutely qualified for the position of Vice President. He stated he felt Mr. FORD has the know-how to handle a job as complex as this one and stated he is a man who is able to communicate with all diverse segments of the community. [] stated he did not feel Mr. FORD was a "genius"; however, he did feel that Mr. FORD's organizational abilities made him eminently qualified for the appointed position.

[] advised he is active in the local Republican Party. He advised Mr. FORD would never accept any type of gift or contribution from any source in return for favors which he might be able to obtain through his Congressional office.

DE 161-1355
RMB:jbm - 2

[] did, however, advise he had heard a few years ago that Mr. FORD had accepted free airline transportation on a private airline of the Lear Seigler Company of Grand Rapids between Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Washington, D. C. [] could not recall where he had heard this.

[] brought up the subject of labor problems and advised he had discussed trade unionism with Mr. FORD on several occasions. Mr. FORD's general feelings concerning labor are that it has tremendous power, and Mr. FORD felt an appointed committee should be set up specifically to handle labor problems within the United States. [] stated further Mr. FORD felt that elected officials today would not remain in office if they incurred the displeasure of the large trade unions.

In closing, [] highly recommended FORD for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355
RMB/mam/mmr - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

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Mr. JOHN A. COLLINS, 726 Rosewood Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he was a friend of GERALD R. FORD's father and has known the appointee for 43 years. COLLINS stated that he is a retired Vice President of Bissell, Incorporated, and had also served as Mayor of East Grand Rapids for 22 years (1933 to 1955).

Concerning Mr. FORD's character, COLLINS stated appointee is a man of high principles, ethics, honesty and is of high moral character. COLLINS said he has never heard appointee voice his opinions on the subject of civil rights.

COLLINS stated that due to the short time appointee practiced law in Grand Rapids, he could not evaluate his competence as an attorney. However, COLLINS highly recommended appointee for high government office due to his performance as a congressman and due to the vast experience appointee has obtained as a congressman. COLLINS stated that appointee is a man who is known by his word and is a man who has and is able to accomplish many tasks for his constituents and for the country as a whole.

Mr. COLLINS commented favorably regarding appointee's loyalty to the country. He stated he was not in a position to comment on appointee's associates and stated that the entire FORD family enjoys an outstanding reputation in the community.

DE 161-1355
MAT/dmf/lim - 1

PERSONAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[] Old Kent
Bank and Trust Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated
that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD since high school.
[] advised that he has also known Mr. FORD's
wife since prior to her first marriage to one WILLIAM
WARREN. [] advised that WARREN and Mr. FORD's
wife were divorced for incompatibility and that there
was no scandalous situation involved.

[] advised that both Mr. and Mrs. FORD
are of fine moral character, very loyal, and above
reproach. He further described Mr. FORD as being a hard
worker, personable, and concerned for the average citizen.
He stated that he thought Mr. FORD would take a very fair
and direct approach with a matter of civil rights.

[] stated that he knew of no reason why
Mr. FORD should not be approved for the position of Vice
President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
GPD/ald - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[] Herpolsheimer
Company, 1 Monroe Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was
contacted at his place of employment at which time he
advised that he has known Mr. GERALD R. FORD on a personal
basis since 1964 when he first met Mr. FORD at a Kiwanis
Club meeting of which [] is a member. Since
that time, [] advised that he has met with Mr. FORD
socially at various community functions and Chamber of
Commerce meetings. According to [], Mr. FORD's
wife, ELIZABETH, was fashion coordinator for the Herpolsheimer
store in Grand Rapids, Michigan, prior to her marriage.

With regard to Mr. FORD's qualifications, Mr.
[] advised that he regarded Mr. FORD as an individual
possessing the highest character and morals with a deep
sense of loyalty toward his country. [] described
Mr. FORD as one who always represented the best interests
of minority groups without any racial prejudice. []
further advised that he has never known Mr. FORD to associate
with any questionable individuals. [] stated that
Mr. FORD's views with regard to national and local policy have
always reflected an attitude and judgment which has best served
the interests of the people he represents. [] advised
he was aware of Mr. FORD's legal background; however, he was
unable to provide any opinion regarding Mr. FORD's qualifications
in that field.

[] advised that he would recommend Mr. FORD
to hold any position of trust with the United States
Government.

DE 161-1355
KSB/rlg/KAB - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[redacted]
[redacted] Michigan, stated he is [redacted]
of the Grand Rapids Wood Finishing Company, 61 Grandville
Avenue, Southeast, Grand Rapids. His association with
Mr. FORD is derived from [redacted] active participation
in the Fifth District Republican Committee in Grand Rapids,
where he served [redacted] from 1959 through 1965.
[redacted] stated he has been an active member in the
Downtown Kiwanis Club since 1943, and held the position
of [redacted] in this organization from
1953, through 1968. [redacted] stated he has had direct
dealings with Mr. FORD through both the Republican
Committee in the Fifth District and the Downtown Kiwanis
Club. He stated he regards Mr. FORD as an extremely able,
conscientious and loyal public servant. He knows of no
unfavorable information in Mr. FORD's background and is
aware of no derogatory information with respect to Mr.
FORD's associates. He stated that he wholeheartedly
endorsed the appointment of Mr. FORD as Vice-President.

DE 161-1355
WTJ/emv - 1

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PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[redacted] resident of [redacted]
[redacted], Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that she
has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. as a social acquaintance for
over 20 years.

She lived [redacted]
[redacted] for several years and she described the FORD family
as the best neighbors she has ever had.

She characterized GERALD FORD as a man of excellent
character and morals and she advised that his associates
are of the highest caliber.

[redacted] stated that she was not familiar with
Mr. FORD's business dealings and that she was not in a position
to comment about his legal qualifications or civil rights
views. However, she knows of no derogatory information con-
cerning any of Mr. FORD's activities or about any aspect of
his background.

DE 161-1355
JCE/dmf/pjf - 1

The following investigation was conducted on
October 18, 1973, by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]
[redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted] Grand Rapids,
Michigan, advised he is [redacted] of Robinson
Cartage Company of Grand Rapids.

[redacted] said he does not personally know Mr.
FORD but has been acquainted with his record since he is
himself a registered Republican. He believes Mr. FORD to
be an honorable man in all respects and a person who is
beyond reproach. [redacted] continued that he does not know
the members of Mr. FORD's family. He could provide no comments
regarding methods of financing which were used for Mr. FORD's
previous election campaigns. [redacted] stated that his
company has never sought the assistance of Mr. FORD and had
no information concerning the appointee's civil rights record.

DE 161-1355
EGP/ltc/dll - 1

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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

GERALD J. MC CARTHY, Deputy Director - Highway, Department of State Highway and Transportation, State Highway Building, advised he has been with that department for 25 years in various capacities and has been in Lansing since 1960. He stated his department awards contracts for construction property, engineering and consulting services and sells land. Although his department receives many inquiries from State and Federal legislators regarding the status of projects and priorities in completed projects, he has never been subjected to any pressures from any legislator regarding awarding contracts. This specifically pertains to Vice Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD, his office and members of his family.

As an example of the inquiries his office receives from legislators, MC CARTHY stated that a bridge in Lyon, Michigan, has been the subject of inquiries from many State and Federal officials including Governor MILLIKEN, Senator HART, and Mr. FORD. This bridge is an old, weakened steel bridge which has a reduced capacity and school buses are required to stop, discharge children, cross the bridge and then have the children reboard the bus for the continuation of the trip. Appointee FORD and other officials have inquired into the status of replacement of this bridge but none have ever attempted to pressure for particular engineering firms or contractors to perform services in replacement of the bridge.

MC CARTHY said his department buys real property for highway use and disposes of excess or surplus property as well. All purchases are public and conducted through an appraisal system with two individual fee appraisers being utilized when the value of the land is over \$25,000.00. To his knowledge, his department has never purchased any land from the appointee or members of the FORD family or purchased any land in which the appointee may have had an interest.

DE 161-1355
EGP/ltc/dll - 2

Disposal of surplus real property is done through public auction, except for small land-locked parcels which are of use only to adjoining property owners. These parcels are sold through negotiation with the adjoining land owner and are also open to public scrutiny. MC CARTHY reiterated that to his knowledge, no land has been sold by his department to Mr. FORD, members of his family or to any firm or group in which the appointee might have an interest.

Mr. MC CARTHY said he personally met Mr. FORD about six months ago in Washington. He may have met Mr. FORD on previous handshaking tours by the appointee in Michigan but he could not recall specific dates. He doubted the appointee would recall him by name. Mr. MC CARTHY advised he is also from Grand Rapids where he was born and raised, and knows the FORD family to have an excellent reputation in that area. Mr. MC CARTHY stated he is better acquainted with GERALD FORD's stepbrother, TOM FORD, a former local representative from Grand Rapids, and currently employed by the House Fiscal Agency, Michigan State Legislature. He knows TOM FORD to be a patriotic American whose reputation is above reproach. He further stated that no information of any type has ever come to his attention which would reflect unfavorably on the appointee or his family or would indicate Mr. FORD is anything other than an honest, dedicated public servant.

DE 161-1355
OJZ/dm 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], at Ionia County, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

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Mr. J. LEE STRACHAM, 4934 Bluewater Highway,
Ionia, Michigan, advised that he was the former Finance
Chairman of the Ionia County Republican Party.

Mr. STRACHAM stated that since he is 83
years old he could not remember specific dates or
times concerning his tenure in office or his association
with Mr. GERALD FORD. Mr. STRACHAM stated that
although this is the case, he does consider Mr. FORD
to be a highly qualified individual who is deeply
interested in the welfare of the people who he
represents and that he would highly recommend him
for the position of Vice-President of the United
States.

BAM/emv/psn - 1
DE 161-1355

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

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A. WILLIAM HONECKER, Secretary, Advertising Federation of Grand Rapids, 55 Glenview, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stated that he became acquainted with GERALD FORD, JR. through his father, GERALD FORD, SR., back in the early 1920's. HONECKER advised that he was a coal merchant as was GERALD FORD, SR. in 1920's and they were both members of a Bridge Club. He advised that his first contact with GERALD FORD, JR. was in the early 1920's at meetings of the Grand Rapids Boat and Canoe Club, which GERALD FORD, JR. had joined.

HONECKER advised he has had a number of social contacts with GERALD FORD, JR., such as a Lion's Club and Rotary Club meetings. He stated that he has followed the political career of Mr. FORD and considers him to be an honest, intelligent and very hard working Congressman. HONECKER stated that Mr. FORD's vigor, stamina and character are recognized by everyone who comes in contact with him.

HONECKER stated that he has made very small contributions to Mr. FORD's political campaigns, but he has no knowledge of any irregular campaign activities.

HONECKER stated he would highly recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
UGS:cp:ald - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,
1973:

[redacted]
[redacted], Grand Rapids, advised he has known Mr. GERALD FORD
since 1946 when both were employed by the same law firm.
He explained that Mr. FORD was elected to Congress in 1948.

[redacted] described Mr. FORD as an affable man with
many friends and one of the most honest men he has ever known.
He stated Mr. FORD's reputation is impeccable and Mr. FORD is
without question a loyal American citizen. He advised that he
would, without any reservation, recommend him for the position
of Vice President of the United States Government.

[redacted] emphasized that he knew of no indiscretions
or wrong doings that Mr. FORD had ever been party to and reiterated
that Mr. FORD was one of the most honest men he has ever known.

DE 161-1355
IAB/nar:msl - 1

FRIEND AND POLITICAL SUPPORTER

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED] Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [REDACTED], was contacted at her residence where she furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that she has lived in the Grand Rapids area for approximately seven years and ever since moving to the area, has been active in the Republican Party of Kent County, Michigan. In 1967, she served as [REDACTED] of this organization. Through this organization, she has had both a political and social relationship with Mr. and Mrs. FORD as well as Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS FORD, and Mr. and Mrs. JAMES FORD. [REDACTED] pointed out that the appointee has been in her home on a number of occasions.

[REDACTED] advised that the appointee had excellent character and that he is a fine family man with compassion for people of Michigan's 5th Congressional District. She further advised that he is a very loyal person who is extremely devoted to his country. His associates without exception are above reproach.

[REDACTED] stated that the appointee is a very fair person. He deals with all persons justly, regardless of their race, color, or creed.

[REDACTED] stated that she knows of absolutely no derogatory information regarding either the appointee or members of his family. On a number of occasions, she has overheard members of the Democratic Party comment on the appointee's high character. Although members of the Democratic Party may not agree with the appointee, all agree that he has the highest quality of character.

[REDACTED] advised that she would fully endorse the appointee especially on terms of honesty and integrity and it is her personal feeling that President Nixon could not have made a better selection for the high office of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
JAB/mam - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17,
1973:

[redacted]
[redacted], East Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone [redacted]
advised that he is a close friend of Congressman FORD and
has known him all of his life.

[redacted] stated that Mr. FORD is a man who he regards
as having the highest degree of integrity, character, loyalty
and morals. He stated that a combination of FORD's background,
experience and ability makes him an excellent choice for the
office of Vice President of the United States.

[redacted] stated that Mr. FORD is well liked by the
Grand Rapids community and is considered a hardworker.

[redacted] advised that Mr. FORD has never discussed
with him personally his views on Civil Rights or other matters
of political interest.

[redacted] was unable to provide any derogatory infor-
mation concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355
KSB/cp:msl - 1

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

[] Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and advised as follows:

[] has known GERALD FORD since 1941 when both worked as attorneys in the same building. [] explained their relationship grew as they worked together as fellow Republicans.

[] described Mr. FORD as a man whose reputation is beyond reproach. He described Mr. FORD as a man who has the personality to make many friends. He further stated that Mr. FORD is one of the most honest men he has ever known, not only as an attorney but as an individual. He stated not even his political opponents attack his integrity or honesty.

[] described Mr. FORD's loyalty toward the United States as "old fashioned" type of loyalty, wherein he staunchly stands by the United States and the President in the face of any criticism. [] advised that Mr. FORD has been a very able Congressman and stated Mr. FORD is quite capable to serve as Vice President.

[] knew of no indiscretions in the personal life or political life of Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355
JHE/cp:msl - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

[] []
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that his association with GERALD FORD is purely political. He advised that he first met Mr. FORD in 1961 and has talked with him personally four or five times since then. Mr. FORD is described by [] as a person of outstanding character and his reputation in the Grand Rapids area is of the highest order. He advised that Mr. FORD is a loyal American and that his friends and associates are all loyal, dedicated Americans.

[] advised that he thinks Mr. FORD would make an outstanding Vice President and that, in all the years Mr. FORD has been a representative in the Grand Rapids district, he has never known or heard of him taking advantage of his political position.

DE 161-1355
MJH/lcc - 1

SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

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Mr. MINOR D. DUTCHER, President of Minor Realty located at 1940 Eastern Street, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, residing at 537 Ardmore, S.E., Grand Rapids, telephone number 616-243-5411, date of birth May 15, 1897, place of birth Caledonia, Michigan, was interviewed concerning his past and present associations with GERALD FORD. DUTCHER stated that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately 25 years on a casual social basis.

Mr. DUTCHER, being advanced in years, stated that he was a much closer friend to GERALD FORD, SR., and through various social functions and general impressions presented by the FORD's family, Mr. DUTCHER had the highest regards for the GERALD FORD family in every respect. Mr. DUTCHER stated he has visited GERALD FORD on a few occasions in Washington, D.C. which were for a purely social function and, to the best of his knowledge, he has had no business or political contacts with the FORD political organizations outside of several small contributions amounting to approximately \$25.00 apiece.

Mr. DUTCHER characterized GERALD FORD as an individual who possessed the admiration of the majority of the citizens in the Grand Rapids area and that over the years of close scrutiny by the populace of Grand Rapids, he was unable to provide any derogatory information regarding the character of GERALD FORD. Mr. DUTCHER stated that GERALD FORD's loyalty to the United States is untouchable, and that he has impeccable morals, and that he was not able to recall any of GERALD FORD's associates that would be of questionable reputation. Mr. DUTCHER highly recommended GERALD FORD for the job of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
AW/pjw -1

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ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[redacted] Grand Rapids
Senior Citizen Program, 815 Grandville, advised she
has known of the appointee and his work for the past
20 years. However, she has only been actively associated
with his work since 1968.

[redacted] advised that the appointee has done
everything within his means for the poor and unfortunate
people of this country. She feels he is receptive
to the needs of all.

She advised that the appointee is a clean-cut,
honest, hardworking politician who has not forgotten
the little man. She advised that in this respect she
believes that black people, especially in this community,
have received a fair share from him.

She concluded by stating that the appointee
has all of the qualities to make a great Vice President
for this nation.

DE 161-1355
MAT/rlg:msl - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[]
Grand Rapids Junior College, advised that he was acquainted
with GERALD FORD since they both graduated from South High
School, however, he was not socially acquainted with Mr. FORD
during that period of time.

[] stated that as a member of []
[] at the Junior College, he is interested
in politics and is aware that the [] lack
practical experience. [] stated that after expressing
this fact to Mr. FORD, he was surprised, but very honored,
that Mr. FORD gave him a position during the summer of 1973
as a member of his staff working in the []
in Washington, D.C. [] stated that this was just one of
the many examples of Mr. FORD's concern to improve the
[] role and ability in the [] area.
[] stated that he held a staff position in Washington,
D.C., for two months from the end of May to the end of July,
1973. During this time [] advised that he became
tremendously aware of Mr. FORD's overwhelming hard work and
dedication to the United States and its citizens and the
civil rights of all citizens.

He stated that Mr. FORD was of the highest character,
morals and integrity and possessed the qualities of leadership.
He advised that Mr. FORD's office in Washington receives
approximately 200 letters a day dealing with various problems
and requests from individuals throughout the United States.
He stated that there were never any questions as to whether
these letters were from Republicans or Democrats and that an
honest attempt was always made to help in any way possible with
their problems. Politics never entered the picture. He stated
that during his period in Washington he met both Mr. FORD's
wife and son and described the appointee's family life as ideal.
He stated that he felt honored to have served Mr. FORD and
that he would most definitely recommend Mr. FORD for the
position of Vice President.

[] advised that during his stay in Washington, D.C.,
he attended numerous functions where alcoholic beverages were
served. He stated that although Mr. and Mrs. FORD would
occasionally drink alcoholic beverages, he at no time observed
either Mr. or Mrs. FORD in an intoxicated state nor was he
ever aware of their over-indulging in alcoholic beverages.

DE 161-1355
WJM/mpr - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

ASSOCIATE

[] Michigan Railroads Association, Lansing, Michigan, advised that he has known the appointee since September, 1931, when both were members of the University of Michigan (UM) freshmen football team. [] advised that they were also members of the varsity football squad at UM during 1932, 1933 and 1934. [] advised that he has not been in close personal contact with the appointee since they graduated from college. [] advised that during 1967, when he became [] Michigan Railroad Association, which is a lobby for the Michigan Railroads, he again became acquainted with GERALD R. FORD. [] advised that he has never known of any derogatory information concerning the appointee and has never heard anyone mention any such comments. [] advised that the appointee has an excellent reputation in the State and has outstanding leadership ability. [] advised that the appointee was the best selection for the position of Vice President and that his honesty and integrity are above reproach.

DE 161-1355
HMB/kpd/emv - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ada, Michigan, advised she has known Mr. FORD for approximately 15-16 years, during which time she served as [REDACTED] of the 5th District Republican Party Committee. She advised all her impressions of Mr. FORD are favorable, including his character, morals, associates, and loyalty to the United States of America. She advised she has no personal knowledge of his views on civil rights, other than those views found in printed political material. She further stated she highly recommends Mr. FORD for appointment to the Vice Presidency of the United States.

DE 161-1355
JHC/bjk - 1

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

Mr. ANDREW DE KRAKER, Commissioner, 6th District, Kent County, Michigan, Board of Commissioners, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. since 1950, both socially and professionally. He stated he considers Mr. FORD a good friend and describes Mr. FORD as a competent, cordial individual possessing "the common touch". By this he indicated he meant Mr. FORD's background is "in the grass roots of the Grand Rapids area". He stated Mr. FORD represents the establishment in his conservative outlook and approach. He further stated that this conservative approach does not represent mediocrity, but that Mr. FORD is an example of professionalism.

Mr. DE KRAKER stated that there is nothing derogatory in the background of Mr. FORD or his family that he is aware of. He further indicated that he would highly recommend "this favorite son of Grand Rapids" for any position that he is aspiring to.

Mr. DE KRAKER stated that one of the outstanding characters possessed by FORD is his responsiveness to his constituency.

In conclusion, he stated that based on Mr. FORD's character, loyalty and associates, he would give him the highest possible recommendation.

DE 161-1355
WSN/cel/mmr - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

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General CECIL LEE SIMMONS, retired Army General and Traffic Engineer of the City of Grand Rapids, 300 Monroe Street, N.W., business telephone 456-3066, stated he has known GERALD R. FORD both socially and professionally for 40 years. He stated he is a good friend of the FORD family. He said Mr. FORD is a straightforward man of excellent character whose integrity and honesty are above reproach and whose loyalty is unquestionable.

General SIMMONS stated he is aware of no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD and advised that Mr. FORD will make a great Vice President.

DE 161-1355
WE/cel - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] GERALD FORD's 1970-1972 Congressional Campaign for a committee called Latvians for GERALD FORD. This organization, [REDACTED] added, was not actively involved in FORD's campaign, but the committee was mainly used to channelize campaign funds that were donated from the Latvian Committee in Grand Rapids, into GERALD FORD's re-election campaign.

[REDACTED] stated that the Latvian association of Grand Rapids was a parent organization of Latvians for GERALD FORD. He stated that the association, with an overall membership of about 1,300, was not involved in the re-election campaign, but that individuals that wished to donate money toward Mr. FORD's re-election would channelize their funds through the Latvians for GERALD FORD.

[REDACTED] stated that the amount of money that was turned over to the GERALD FORD re-election committee was registered at the Kent County Clerk's Office in compliance with existing laws in those years. He said that he was unaware of any mix-up, confusion, or allegations, of misuse of these funds.

[REDACTED] continued that he first met Mr. FORD in 1956 when Mr. FORD was a speaker at one of the Latvian Association meetings. He was very impressed by GERALD FORD at this time and has spoken with him personally several times since concerning the particular problems that the Latvians have encountered in the Grand Rapids area. He stated that Mr. FORD has always been very friendly with the association, and feels that he is very responsive to the problems of all minorities.

DE 161-1355

WE/cel - 2

He added that Mr. FORD is a very honest and truthful individual and that if he is unable to accomplish a requested task, he will specifically state that he is unable to do so and give his reasons why. For this reason, Mr. FORD is very highly thought of in Grand Rapids.

continued by stating that he believes Mr. FORD is perhaps one of the most patriotic and loyal citizens he knows of, and stated that President NIXON has made an extremely good choice in selecting Mr. FORD to be Vice President. He highly recommends Mr. FORD for this position and added that he is intensely proud to have an individual from Western Michigan on the President's staff.

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DE 161-1355
WE/bjk/KAB - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, advised that he is [REDACTED] of the
Latvian Association of Grand Rapids and has been active
in this capacity during the last six years. [REDACTED]
stated that he has only slightly known GERALD FORD, but that
he has had dealings with him and his office over the years
through the Latvian Association.

[REDACTED] stated that the Latvian Association
is a cultural, social, and ethnic organization in Grand
Rapids, which provides a social outlet for the citizens,
approximately 1300 residents, of Latvian descent. He
stated that his association stays out of the direct line
of politics, but added that he, in the past, has had
GERALD FORD speak to the association about general matters.
[REDACTED] continued by stating that he believes
President NIXON has made a wise choice in choosing GERALD
FORD to be his Vice-President.

He described Mr. FORD as being a very unselfish
individual, a loyal American, and an extremely hard worker
for all projects he undertakes. It is [REDACTED] belief
that the entire Latvian community in Grand Rapids fully
supports GERALD FORD for the position of Vice-President.

DE 161-1355
MLC/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED]:

ACQUAINTANCES

On October 17, 1973, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Spartan Oil Corporation, 419 Spring, Lansing,
Michigan, and who resides at [REDACTED] Lansing, advised
that he has only met the appointee GERALD R. FORD on a
couple occasions, both times at a Republican Party function.
[REDACTED] advised that appointee is dedicated, honest, and
well-liked, even among political opponents. [REDACTED] advised
that he is not aware of any derogatory information concerning the
appointee.

On October 17, 1973, [REDACTED]
Wolverine Commercial Development Corporation, 417 Spring,
Lansing, Michigan, advised that he attended a Republican
Party dinner in Washington, D. C., on May 23, 1973, at
which time he met the appointee. The dinner was in honor
of Congressman CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN.

[REDACTED] advised that appointee is extremely loyal
to the United States and to the party.

[REDACTED] advised that he is not aware of any
psychiatric consultations referred to in the press.

[REDACTED] advised that he is extremely impressed with
the appointee and believes he would make an outstanding Vice
President.

On October 17, 1973, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Demmer Corporation, 3525 Capitol City
Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, advised that he makes an
annual trip to Washington, D. C., for business briefings by
national leaders. [REDACTED] stated that he has met appointee
and only knows him through these casual meetings. [REDACTED]
finds appointee's character, loyalty, and integrity, to be
unquestionable. Nothing derogatory known. [REDACTED] advised
that he knows no one who would speak unfavorably of appointee.
Appointee displays leadership quality and dedication.

DE 161-1355
MLC/jms - 2

[] stated that he is not aware of any psychiatric consultations taken by appointee as referred to in the press.

On October 17, 1973, []
[], Demmer Corporation, 3525 Capitol City Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, advised that he first met appointee at a speech he gave at the University of Michigan. []
[] advised that he makes the annual trip to Washington, D. C., and has met appointee at business briefings by national leaders. He advised that he can think of no one who would speak unfavorably of appointee. He stated that appointee is loyal to his party, the United States, and business.

DE 161-1355
MLC/jms/pjw -1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED]

ACQUAINTANCE

On October 17, 1973, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 1200 Bank of Lansing Building, Lansing, Michigan,
advised that he has been a close friend of appointee
GERALD R. FORD since childhood when their families resided
in Grand Rapids.

[REDACTED] advised that the appointee and he were
members of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity while
attending the University of Michigan and that later the
appointee was a partner in the law firm, Law, Buchen,
Weathers, Richardson and Dutcher, 740 Old Kent Boulevard,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He said that he is acquainted with Mr. FORD's
wife, BETTY, and knows that she had been married
prior to marrying appointee. He said that he has never
known appointee to have been married prior to his
current marriage.

[REDACTED] related that he has always heard that the
appointee has enjoyed the respect of his political
opponents in Congress and that he knows Mr. FORD's
character, loyalty and integrity to be above reproach
and that he recommends him without reservation for the
office of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
DLB/bjk:mam - 1

PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

ABE L. DRASIN, [redacted], Grand Rapids, advised that for the last two and one-half years, he has been a City Commissioner for the City of Grand Rapids, with no particular political affiliation. He advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, on a personal basis all his life and regards him as a "super excellent" Representative of the Fifth District.

DRASIN advised that he has a fetish about integrity in politics and business and said he regards the integrity of Mr. FORD as being beyond reproach. He also advised that although he is not well acquainted with Mr. FORD's wife or her family, he knows of nothing derogatory in the entire FORD family background.

He said he feels that Mr. FORD is very capable of handling the position of Vice President or even President of the United States and would have no reservations about recommending him for a position of trust with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355
JHE:kc/dkd - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

Mr. JACK OTTE, President, Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and President, American Laundry Company, 145 Morningside, SE, Grand Rapids, advised that he has been a close, personal friend of Mr. FORD's for over 40 years. He advised that he visits with Mr. FORD many times every year in his dual capacity as President of the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and as the Director of the American Red Cross. He advised that he always makes it a point to visit Mrs. FORD at her home in Alexandria, Virginia, when he is in Washington. Mr. OTTE advised that he has never known Mrs. FORD to have a drinking problem of any kind, although [redacted]

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[redacted]. Mr. OTTE advised that he knows the family of Mrs. FORD, including her ex-husband of San Francisco, California, and considers them all to have an outstanding reputation.

Mr. OTTE advised that Mr. FORD's character is without equal, very unimpeachable and he has an excellent reputation in this community. He advised that Mr. FORD drinks in moderation and has a high sense of moral responsibility. Mr. OTTE advised that Mr. FORD has a strong sense of loyalty to the United States and to his constituents and even though he socializes infrequently, his associates are outstanding, reputable people.

Mr. OTTE advised that he could not comment on Mr. FORD's ability as an attorney, because he practiced law for such a short time. He also advised that he has never heard Mr. FORD express his views on civil rights.

Mr. OTTE advised that even though he is a Republican fund raiser and strongly supports the Republican Party, he thought that both Democrats and Republicans will rally toward the support of Mr. FORD. He advised that he personally thought Mr. FORD will make an excellent Vice President.

DE 161-1355
JHE:kc/dkd - 2

Mr. OTTE concluded by saying that he knows of nothing in Mr. FORD's background that would ever, in any way, embarrass the President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
CAP/pjw -1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted on
October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by
SA [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Gordon
Bruce Realty Company, 111C Waters Building, Grand Rapids,
Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD for 15
years. [REDACTED] also advised that he politically opposes
Mr. FORD because Mr. FORD is a rubber stamp image of
President NIXON.

[REDACTED] stated, however, that he has never met
an individual who fights a cleaner political campaign.
[REDACTED] stated that Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, and morals
are beyond reproach and if they were not, Mr. FORD would
have lost the election to his Congressional seat many years
ago. [REDACTED] did state that Mr. FORD has on one or two
occasions in the past ten years brought up issues in
Grand Rapids which he opposed, but Mr. FORD believed in
these issues and fought hard on all issues. His conduct
during his campaigns was above reproach.

DE 161-1355
WAT/cel - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [] on October 18, 1973:

[], stated that he has known Mr. FORD since the eighth grade at South High School, where they attended high school together. In addition, every Thanksgiving Day, Mr. FORD and other members of the 30-30 Club (an organization comprised of the 30-member football team from South High School who were the state champions in 1930), meet regularly. He described Mr. FORD's character as "tops" and added that Mr. FORD was well liked throughout high school, was a good leader and good athlete. He had a very good reputation and [] could not recall any questionable associates of Mr. FORD. Mr. FORD's loyalty is excellent and [] stated he would certainly recommend Mr. FORD for a position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

[] said he knew BETTY BLOOMER as she also attended South High School at the same time. Since he has known Mr. FORD and BLOOMER, he has heard nothing derogatory concerning either.

[] recalled that BETTY BLOOMER and GERALD FORD dated continually throughout high school and that FORD married her sometime after high school. As far as [] could remember, neither had been previously married.

[] is not familiar with FORD's views on civil rights. [] is not familiar with any of FORD's political views. He has no knowledge of FORD's financial status or campaign contributions.

DE 161-1355
KSB/ptm:cb - 1

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

GERALD E. WHITE was interviewed at the office of White, Smither, Zimmerman and Walters, Attorneys and Counselors, 475 Frey Building, Union Bank Plaza, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49502, telephone number (616) 459-3418, home address [REDACTED], Grand Rapids, telephone number [REDACTED]. WHITE stated that he first met Congressman FORD in 1946. Mr. FORD's law office was located in the Michigan Trust Building. WHITE occupied an office in 1946 on the same floor as that of Mr. FORD and his partner. WHITE was the President of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce in 1956 and 1957. His contacts with Congressman FORD took place primarily in Washington, D.C., during the late fifties and early sixties.

WHITE met with Mr. FORD on an annual basis in his Capitol Hill Office in Washington, D.C. These meetings for the most part concerned matters of national affairs and matters of local interest to the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. WHITE advised that through his long association with Congressman FORD he feels qualified to comment as to Congressman FORD's character, his loyalty, and his integrity. WHITE advised that Congressman FORD is a public official of the highest stature and one of high moral principles.

He advised further that Congressman FORD has attended to his affairs as Congressman from the 5th District of Michigan with a high degree of integrity and dedication. WHITE advised that he does not know of any derogatory information regarding Congressman FORD. WHITE is unfamiliar with Congressman FORD's financial background.

DE 161-1355
JHE/kpd - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that she is a close personal friend of Mr. and Mrs. FORD. She advised that she has known Mr. FORD for approximately 40 years and Mrs. FORD for approximately 42 years.

[redacted] advised that Mr. FORD is of the highest character, a loyal citizen, and associates with people and organizations with the highest reputations.

[redacted] advised that she considers Mr. FORD to have been an excellent attorney and thinks that he will make an outstanding Vice President. [redacted] advised that when she associates with Mr. FORD he never discusses politics.

[redacted] concluded by saying that she considers Mr. FORD to be a gentleman of the highest degree.

DE 161-1355
JHE/kpd -1

ACQUAINTANCE

Mr. RICHARD W. YOUNG, General Manager, Dehler-Young Wholesalers, 342 Market Street, SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. FORD quite well since 1954. He advised that he saw Mr. FORD frequently in 1972 in the capacity of President of the Greater Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Mr. YOUNG advised that his character is outstanding and he has a reputation as one of the most honest men in town. He advised that Mr. FORD's loyalty to the United States and to his constituents is one of his most outstanding traits. He advised that he associates with individuals and organizations of the highest reputations.

Mr. YOUNG advised that he considered him a "down to earth" type attorney and always willing to help anyone.

Mr. YOUNG concluded by saying that he thought Mr. FORD was an excellent choice for Vice President.

The above investigation was conducted by SA []
[] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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DE 161-1355
GOS/tsd - 1

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b7C

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Portland, Michigan, on October 18,
1973:

[redacted] Barley -
Earhart Company, 233 Divine Highway, Portland, Michigan,
advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD personally for
18 years and considers him to be one of the most honest
and scrupulous men he has ever known. He observed that
Mr. FORD's morals are completely above reproach and he
is an extremely conscientious individual.

He stated that Mr. FORD is a highly dedicated,
loyal American who works very hard for the citizenry of
the United States. He further advised that Mr. FORD
believes strongly in equal rights for all Americans and he
stands firmly on his principles.

[redacted] said he could furnish little information
concerning Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney or his
financial background due to limited knowledge in these areas.
He stated he knew nothing of a derogatory nature concerning
Mr. FORD and would recommend him without reservations for
the position of Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
JFK/dag - 1

PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973:

[], Grand Rapids, advised that he has known Congressman GERALD R. FORD, since 1928. [] played high school football with Mr. FORD and considers Mr. FORD a close personal friend. He has maintained personal contact with Mr. FORD and he felt that his character, reputation, morals and associates are excellent. He considers Mr. FORD to be a loyal patriotic citizen and he would recommend Mr. FORD for any position of responsibility in the United States Government.

[] stated that Mr. FORD is very open minded on all issues and he feels that Mr. FORD always attempts to get the views of both sides of an issue. He feels that Mr. FORD would go out of his way to help anyone if he could, including members of the opposite political party as well as members of his own party. [] is not familiar with Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney. [] knows of nothing derogatory regarding any member of Mr. FORD's family.

About election time in 1968, there was an article in the Detroit and Grand Rapids newspapers regarding approximately \$11,000.00 which Mr. FORD signed over to the Republican Campaign Committee. [] wrote Mr. FORD a letter requesting an explanation of this transaction because [] has always defended Mr. FORD's activities. Mr. FORD answered the letter and explained that he had signed the money over to the Republican Campaign Committee because his own campaign was already adequately financed. [] stated that he had no reason to question the truth of the explanation and has never heard anything which would raise any doubts in his mind as to the explanation.

DE 161-1355
KSB:jfd - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[], Belmont,
Michigan, telephone [] advised he is a []
from the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in New Jersey.
[] is []
of Grand Rapids. [] is a [] Mason and has held
this title since 1959. He is active in the Grand Lodge of
Masons in the State of Michigan. [] first met Mr.
GERALD R. FORD in 1945. His associations with Mr. FORD since
that time have been through activities which [] organized
through his Masonic activities.

[] stated he has known Mr. FORD, in addition,
through his membership in the Downtown Kiwanis Club of
Grand Rapids, where [] held the position of []
in 1966. [] described Mr. FORD as a dedicated and
loyal American. He stated he has no knowledge of any derogatory
information regarding Mr. FORD's background, morals or
associates. [] stated Mr. FORD has performed as a
Congressman from the Fifth District of Michigan with the
highest degree of honesty and integrity.

[] stated he considered Mr. FORD as an
excellent appointee for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
KSB/rlg/lim - 1

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted
by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted], [redacted]
Grand Rapids, [redacted] telephone number [redacted],
was interviewed and stated he is [redacted] of
Metcalf Funeral Home, 933 Cherry Street, Southeast,
Grand Rapids. [redacted] advised that his company
has furnished home services to the Ford family since
1948.

[redacted] stated that he is not in a position
to comment specifically on Mr. FORD as his relationship
with him has been primarily with the FORD family. He
advised, however, that all members of the FORD family
are prominent members of the community, and he knows
of no derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD or
his family. He stated in conclusion, Mr. FORD is an
excellent choice for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
WGJ/esj/KAB - 1

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b7C

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Greenville, Michigan, on October
18, 1973:

[] Insurance and Real
Estate Company, was contacted and advised that he first
met appointee approximately 45 years ago when they were
playing high school football against each other. []
stated that the next time he saw appointee was when the
two of them attended the University of Michigan in 1932.
[] stated that to his knowledge, throughout appointee's
college days, he always conducted himself in a very amiable
manner. [] stated that appointee, while in college, had
all the characteristics of the all-American kid.

[] stated that through the years, he has
never heard of any derogatory information concerning
appointee and that in his opinion, appointee is an
individual of the highest character and reputation.
[] stated that appointee is a loyal American citizen
and is of the highest associates. [] stated that
he does not know very much about appointee's personal
or political life, but that he is sure that appointee
has always and always will conduct himself in a very
professional manner.

[] stated that from what he knows of
appointee, he would most definitely recommend him for
a position of trust and responsibility.

DE 161-1355
HKM/kpd -1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

[] Grand Rapids Urban League, 745 Eastern, SE, Grand Rapids, telephone number [], advised he has known appointee since 1947. [] advised that he has always gotten along well with appointee and that appointee has been of assistance whenever he has contacted him for help. [] advised that he knows nothing derogatory concerning appointee's stand on civil rights. He has never had the occasion to put appointee "on the spot" regarding racial issues. [] advised he knows nothing derogatory concerning appointee which would prohibit him from assuming the high office for which he is being considered.

DE 161-1355
FJK:js - 1

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The following investigation was conducted
by SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Portland,
Michigan:

LARRY WERNETTE, City Manager, Portland, Ionia County, Michigan, advised he has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, for approximately seven years. His association has been strictly business and/or political. He never associated with him socially. Mr. WERNETTE stated he has never known a finer man to represent the State of Michigan in the United States House of Representatives. Mr. FORD's loyalty is unquestionable as well as his associates. His moral attitude is excellent and Mr. WERNETTE is unaware of any financial transactions of Mr. FORD's which are questionable or could be embarrassing.

Mr. WERNETTE is not acquainted with any members of appointee's family, although he did meet his wife very briefly at a political function a number of years ago.

Mr. FORD was very helpful to the City of Portland approximately 1½ years ago, when the city sold bonds to finance a new sewage disposal system. The interest on these bonds was to be paid from an increase in sewage disposal rates. The price freeze came into existence about the same time and prevented the city from raising the sewage rates. Mr. FORD was contacted by the city leaders and he was eventually successful in Portland being allowed to raise its sewage disposal rates in order to pay the bond interest.

Mr. WERNETTE highly recommended appointee to the position of Vice President and feels he will serve the American public in an outstanding manner.

LARRY BARLEY, Ionia County Chairman of the GOP, Portland, Michigan, advised he has known appointee, GERALD R. FORD, since 1965. He met appointee through his father, A. C. BARLEY, who was Mayor of Portland from 1965 to 1969. LARRY BARLEY was in the United States Navy at the time and was interested in obtaining a discharge and sought appointee's assistance. He advised he was unsuccessful in getting his

DE 161-1355

FJK:js - 2

discharge and it was not until 1969, after he had served his four year enlistment, that he was discharged.

After his discharge, BARLEY attended Republican Party functions, dinners and fundraising affairs, which were attended by appointee. He never associated on a close personal or social basis with appointee. The only other member of appointee's family whom he met was appointee's youngest son, who attended a fundraising affair on one occasion.

BARLEY recalled that appointee was instrumental in obtaining federal funds for two senior citizen housing developments in Ionia County, mainly in Belding and Ionia. BARLEY felt these are worthwhile projects on which more federal money should be spent.

BARLEY has no reason to question the appointee's loyalty to the United States, his associates or morals. Aside from the Republican Party, he knows of no other organizations which appointee belongs to. He knows of no unfavorable information whatsoever relating to appointee and he considers him to be an honest and trustworthy Congressman, who is well-qualified to be appointed to the Vice Presidency of the United States.

GGR:cgp -1
DE 161-1355

ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Lansing, Michigan:

On October 17, 1973, [redacted] Michigan National Bank, advised he is the [redacted] of the Michigan Republican Party [redacted] Committee. [redacted] stated he does not know appointee GERALD R. FORD personally but only through reputation. [redacted] advised through reputation he considers GERALD FORD of excellent character and reputation and believes Mr. FORD will make an excellent Vice-President for the United States. [redacted] advised he has heard nothing derogatory in any way regarding FORD.

On October 17, 1973, [redacted] Story Incorporated, 665 Stoddard Building, Lansing, Michigan, advised he was [redacted] at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, from 1945 to 1956 and in 1956 [redacted] at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan, and served in that capacity until 1967 when he began employment with Story Incorporated. [redacted] advised he has known GERALD FORD for the past 20 years on a political, educational level. [redacted] stated he considers FORD to be of excellent character and reputation. [redacted] stated that FORD is a very loyal American and a person of very high moral character. [redacted] stated FORD is a person of great integrity and a very humble person. [redacted] stated that based upon his

GGR:cgp - 2
DE 161-1355

knowledge of FORD he would highly recommend him for the position as Vice-President of the United States. [redacted] advised he knows nothing derogatory regarding FORD or FORD's family in any way. [redacted] stated the individual in the Lansing area who would probably know FORD best would be one [redacted] a [redacted] who is now associated as [redacted] with the Public Affairs Association Incorporated, 416 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan.

On October 17, 1973, [redacted]
[redacted], John Henry Company, Lansing, Michigan, advised he has known Mr. GERALD FORD for approximately the past 40 years as a personal friend. [redacted] stated that both have visited each other's home on numerous occasions. [redacted] stated that he considers FORD to be a great American of outstanding character and reputation and stated he has never heard anything derogatory nor does he know of any derogatory information regarding GERALD FORD or any member of FORD's family. [redacted] stated, without reservation, he would highly recommend FORD for the position of Vice-President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
HMB/msl - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted], on October 18, 1973:

[redacted]
[redacted] Comstock Park, Michigan, advised she has known Mr. FORD for approximately thirteen years, during which time she served as a [redacted] of the 5th District Republican Party Committee.

She advised all her impressions of Mr. FORD and his family are favorable, including his character, morals, associates, and loyalty to the United States of America. She advised she has no personal knowledge of his views regarding civil rights, but she feels he has a favorable record in the United States Congress, as well as on the state and local levels.

She advised he enjoys an extremely good reputation in the community and she feels he is highly qualified to be Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
WGJ/esj/mmr - 1

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ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Belding, Michigan, on October 18,
1973:

JOHN N. GEISEN, Mayor of Belding, Michigan, advised that he has known appointee on a professional basis for approximately six years. GEISEN advised that he and appointee have concurred on several occasions in an effort to bring some Federal grants to improve the City of Belding, Michigan. GEISEN stated that on each occasion, appointee has told him that he will attempt to bring aid to Belding, Michigan, and that each time this help has arrived in forms of Federal grants.

GEISEN advised that when he has had any contact with appointee, appointee has always handled himself in a very professional and competent manner. GEISEN stated that appointee is an individual of the highest character and morals and is an individual who enjoys a wonderful reputation in the Belding, Michigan, area. GEISEN stated that appointee is an outstanding American citizen.

GEISEN stated that each year on Labor Day, for the past number of years, appointee has driven his own car to Belding, Michigan, to take part in the annual Labor Day festivities. GEISEN stated that appointee, at no time, has ever been too busy to sit down and discuss problems or political views with any resident in the Belding area. GEISEN stated that, in his opinion, appointee is a man who is intensely interested in the well-being and the problems of the common man of his congressional district and that over the years of his acquaintanceship with appointee, he has never heard any derogatory information concerning appointee's personal or professional life.

DE 161-1355
WGJ/esj - 2

GEISEN stated that in the years that he has been acquainted with appointee, he has never known appointee to conduct his election in any way except that of a very professional, clean and honest manner. GEISEN stated that to the best of his knowledge, appointee has never, or would he ever, accept any illegal financial funds to support his campaign.

GEISEN stated that appointee is a man deeply concerned with the civil rights of every American citizen and that appointee is a firm believer in the constitution of the United States.

GEISEN stated that to the best of his knowledge, appointee is a most competent and able individual and that he would highly recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
AW/cjn - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[redacted], Gill Manufacturing Corporation, 2455 Oak Industrial Drive, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone [redacted], advised that he has known Mr. FORD for nearly 30-35 years and advised that their families have been acquainted as church members and community workers for that length of time. [redacted] advised that he and the appointee have had a working acquaintance for the last 15 years. [redacted] advised that he is a [redacted] [redacted], Rospatch Corporation, 609 Myrtle, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, of which Mr. FORD is also a member. He has met with Mr. FORD on numerous occasions [redacted].

[redacted] advised that he believes that Mr. FORD is very honest, loyal and forthright. He advised that Mr. FORD's record proves that he is fair in his dealing with all the people on all economic levels.

[redacted] advised he knows nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD and he feels that the country would be lucky to have an individual of his stature in government.

[redacted] also advised that he is [redacted] [redacted] of American Apparel Manufacturing Association Headquarters in Washington, D.C. It is through this association that he has again worked with Mr. FORD. He feels that Mr. FORD is a good family man and that he has associated only with desirable individuals.

DE 161-1355
WGJ/emp - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [] at Lowell, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

HAROLD J. ENGLEHARDT, President, State Savings Bank, Lowell, advised that he has been a professional associate of appointee GERALD FORD's for approximately 20 years. ENGLEHARDT advised that in his opinion GERALD FORD is a most outstanding individual in every respect and that FORD's honesty is above reproach.

ENGLEHARDT advised that during his 20 years as an associate of Mr. FORD he has discovered that GERALD FORD has always been a man of the common people and more than willing to listen to the problems of the people in his congressional district. ENGLEHARDT stated that to his knowledge there is no one in the area of Lowell who has written Mr. FORD asking him for advice, help or information that has not received a prompt reply from either Mr. FORD or one of his staff.

ENGLEHARDT advised that GERALD FORD is an individual of the highest moral standing and enjoys a fine reputation in the community of Lowell. ENGLEHARDT stated that GERALD FORD's character is above reproach and his associates are of the highest caliber.

ENGLEHARDT advised that throughout his years as an acquaintance of GERALD FORD he has never known him to run any type of campaign that was not completely clean and honest. ENGLEHARDT advised that GERALD FORD has always handled himself in the most friendly and professional manner possible.

ENGLEHARDT advised that GERALD FORD is a man who completely believes in the Constitution of the United States and a man who would protect the rights of each and every American citizen.

ENGLEHARDT stated that in his opinion there is no one who is more qualified or able to be appointed as Vice President of the United States.

DE 161-1355
MJH/dag - 1

SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[] Dutcher Realty, located at
1940 Eastern Street. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, residing
at [] Grand Rapids, telephone number
[] was interviewed in regards to his present
and past association with appointee GERALD FORD.

[] advised that he has known GERALD FORD
for approximately 25 years on a casual, social-type relationship.
He stated that he has attended many social functions and
political rallies at which GERALD FORD was a speaker, however,
he has not maintained a close relationship with Mr. FORD,
either on a social or political basis. He stated that he
made yearly contributions to Mr. FORD's campaign, amounting
to approximately \$25.00 per contribution and considers
himself a Republican and a political supporter of GERALD FORD.

He stated, however, that due to the fact that he
has been a resident and businessman in the Grand Rapids area
for his entire life, he feels as though he would have been
able to observe or hear some type of derogatory information
concerning GERALD FORD, but during this time he has never
heard any of this type of information and would be entirely
surprised if he did hear this type of information.

[] described GERALD FORD as an extremely
conscientious man who he felt would do an outstanding job
as Vice President and that the country would be extremely
fortunate to have an individual of these qualifications as
its Vice President. [] stated that he has never
seen or heard of Mr. FORD making any discriminatory remarks.

After further interview, [] stated that
he has neither seen nor heard of any derogatory information
concerning GERALD FORD's loyalty to the United States, his
moral background, his reputation, and could not remember
any associate who he would consider an individual of questionable
reputation. [] recommended GERALD FORD for the
job of Vice President with the highest of regards.

DE 161-1355

LJM/cel - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Greenville,
Michigan:

JOHN HEINZELMAN, [REDACTED] Greenville,
was interviewed regarding his association with Mr. GERALD
FORD. HEINZELMAN has known Mr. FORD since 1929 when he
attended school with Mr. FORD. He considers Mr. FORD as an
honest, trustworthy man of good moral fiber. He stated Mr.
FORD has a stable marriage and never overindulged in his
drinking habits.

HEINZELMAN stated Mr. FORD's associates have always
been trustworthy, of high caliber, and he does not believe Mr.
FORD would ever put himself in the position of associating
with undesirable people.

HEINZELMAN believes Mr. FORD to be an extremely loyal
American who would put the good of the American people before
his own Republican Party.

Through the many years he has known Mr. FORD, he has
never heard him make a derogatory statement concerning any
minority groups and Mr. FORD always remained "in the middle of
the road".

HEINZELMAN was unaware of any financial transactions
Mr. FORD has undertaken in regard to his status as a politician.
He did not think for any reason that Mr. FORD would ever
jeopardize his position by accepting money on a basis other
than a salary.

HEINZELMAN stated that Mr. FORD has always been a
leader and felt that Mr. FORD's being Vice President of the
United States would be a benefit to the American people.

DE 161-1355
KSB/cp/lk - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

[redacted]
Grand Rapids, Michigan, [redacted] Grand Rapids Downtown Kiwanis and [redacted] Federal Housing Administration, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD FORD since 1952. [redacted] advised that his association with Mr. FORD derived from Mr. FORD's association with the Grand Rapids Kiwanis. Mr. FORD has been a speaker for this group on frequent occasions. [redacted] became personally involved with Mr. FORD in 1958 in projects in support of the Boy Scouts of America. [redacted] recalls that Mr. FORD took an active roll in the sponsoring in Boy Scouts of America functions.

[redacted] stated he recommends Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
TWR/srd - 1

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ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Caledonia, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

HUGH KEGERREIS, JR., President of the Village Council of Caledonia, Michigan, 405 East Main Street, Caledonia, stated he had been President of the council for six years and that he has known Mr. FORD as a casual acquaintance for over 25 years. Caledonia is within Mr. FORD's Congressional District and Mr. FORD visits there approximately once a year.

He described Mr. FORD as an honest, and trustworthy individual who is an extremely efficient Legislator. He knows of no known character, loyalty or moral deficiencies which would prevent him from being an outstanding Vice President. He advised that in 1971, the Village Council was attempting to secure a Federal Farm Loan for a Sewage Treatment Plant and that Mr. FORD took prompt action to secure the loan. He stated that in no way were any favors provided to Mr. FORD as a result of him taking this action.

Mr. KEGERREIS said nothing unfavorable has ever come to his attention concerning Mr. FORD. KEGERREIS stated he would definitely recommend Mr. FORD and wanted to see him confirmed as Vice President. Mr. FORD is loyal to the United States and to the Republican Party.

DE 161-1355
OJZ/dm 1

POLITICAL ACQUAINTANCES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], at Ionia County, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED] Collinsville,
Michigan, advised that she is [REDACTED]
who is one of the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Ionia, Michigan.

[REDACTED] stated that she became interested
in politics during 1962, and in this connection with her
sister-in-law, [REDACTED], hosted several "coffee
and teas" for the purpose of raising funds for the County
Republican Party. [REDACTED] advised that Mr. GERALD
R. FORD was in attendance at several of these functions
and stated that she spoke with him at this time. Mrs.
[REDACTED] advised that from this experience she considers
Mr. FORD to be a highly competent and ethical individual
who holds the welfare of the people he represents primarily
in his mind at all times.

She advised that she does not know of nor
has heard even a hint of derogatory information concerning
Mr. FORD and therefore, considers him the most qualified
individual to assume the duties as Vice-President of the
United States.

DE 161-1355
RAE/cjn - 1

ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED], on October 19, 1973:

EARL G. WOODWORTH [REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is currently a member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. He further advised that he was elected to that position in 1970, on the Republican Party ticket. For the 16 years prior to his election as a commissioner, he served on the Town Council in Plainfield, Michigan. He stated that in his 20 years as a public servant, he has come to know Congressman GERALD R. FORD on a first name basis. He stated that his relationship with Mr. FORD is strictly political and that he has had no social or business contact with Mr. FORD of any kind. All his contacts with Mr. FORD have been at meetings to discuss items of interest to and problems of their mutual constituents.

WOODWORTH stated that from his observations and contacts with Mr. FORD and knowledge of the activities of the appointee, he is impressed with Mr. FORD as a "sincere, down to earth" public servant, who relates well to people in all walks of life. WOODWORTH stated that he cannot say enough about Mr. FORD's excellent character, high moral standards and outstanding integrity. He stated that from his observations, Mr. FORD exhibits a quality of unusual fairness and appears to be a man of no prejudices whatsoever.

WOODWORTH stated that he has never been acquainted with other members of Mr. FORD's family, but that he has no knowledge of anything of an unfavorable nature regarding them. He further stated that he has no knowledge of anything unfavorable about the Congressman or his associates.

He characterized Mr. FORD as the "ideal American" and stated that he feels that Mr. FORD is the best qualified person for the position of Vice President of the United States. For these reasons he stated that he gives Congressman FORD his highest recommendation for the job.

DE 161-1355
WTJ/bjk:cb - 1

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PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED], Grand Rapids, Michigan,
advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. for approxi-
mately 11 years as a professional associate.

He completely recommends Mr. FORD for the posi-
tion of vice president of the United States. He stated that
Mr. FORD is honest, that he knows of nothing derogatory in
either Mr. FORD's professional or private dealings.

[REDACTED] described Mr. FORD as being an individual
of the highest character and loyalty and he knows of no
derogatory information concerning his associates.

DE 161-1355
AW/fln:mam - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

[] Gill
Manufacturing Corporation, 2455 Oak Industrial Drive,
Grand Rapids, telephone [] advised that he has
known GERALD R. FORD since he was a young man right out of
college. He has also known Mr. FORD's family for many years
as they have been members of Grace Episcopal Church for quite
some time.

He advised that Mr. FORD is of unimpeachable
character, completely honest, loyal and dedicated to his
country, family, church and community. [] advised
he knows of nothing derogatory that will damage the image
that Mr. FORD has earned through years of dedicated service
as a politician and as a friend of the people. []
advised that from his experience in the Kent Community Action
Program, where he served as President of the Governing
Board, he knows that Mr. FORD has shown concern for the
poor and unfortunate among his constituents. []
advised that he believes that we cannot have a better
appointee for the welfare of the nation and feels that
Mr. FORD is completely capable and qualified for the position
of Vice President of this country.

DE 161-1355
WTH/rlg/pjw -1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[redacted]
Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed and she furnished
the following information:

She has known Mr. and Mrs. GERALD FORD for approximately 35 years and she considers both of them to be excellent and honest people. She stated that she cannot think of any words which would express her feelings regarding Mr. and Mrs. FORD because she believes that they are so marvelous, that she could not express herself properly. She stated that Mr. FORD's character and reputation are above reproach and that Mr. FORD is a man of very high integrity. She noted that Mr. FORD's associates are very reputable people and that there is absolutely no question regarding his loyalty to the United States. She advised that Mr. FORD, in her opinion, is very highly qualified for the position of vice President and she highly recommends him for this position. She stated that Mr. FORD was a very efficient attorney when he formerly worked in private practice and she considers him to be a very efficient and practical individual. She noted that in all her years of acquaintanceship with the FORDs she has never known of anything derogatory regarding either of them. She noted that she first met Mrs. FORD sometime around 1936 and she became acquainted with Mr. FORD a short time thereafter. She advised that Mrs. FORD was divorced prior to her current marriage and she further advised that Mr. FORD had never been married prior to his current marriage. She stated that Mr. and Mrs. FORD are two of the finest people she has ever met in her life and she believes that Mr. FORD will be one of the finest Vice Presidents that has ever served.

DE 161-1355
RMB:lrc -1

ASSOCIATE

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The following investigation was conducted at Sparta, Michigan by SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973:

PAUL C. MILLER, Chairman of the Board, Paul C. Miller Company, 10300 Sparta Road, Sparta, Michigan, advised that his company specializes in highway construction in the Grand Rapids, Michigan Area. He further stated he has casually known Mr. FORD for approximately 30 years and in addition knew Mr. FORD's father. MILLER described Mr. FORD as a man of good character, outstanding efforts and high morals. MILLER also described Mr. FORD's associates as individuals of high repute in the community and commented favorably regarding Mr. FORD's loyalty.

MILLER stated that he could provide no information regarding Mr. FORD's qualifications as an attorney. However, he did state that he did not feel that Mr. FORD was qualified for Vice President because he personally felt that this position was over Mr. FORD's head. He stated that he felt one of the reasons Mr. FORD was over his head was that Mr. FORD, as many other politicians, had been generally influenced by the labor vote in this country today. MILLER would therefore not recommend Mr. FORD for the appointed position and stated he would not because he personally felt the job to be over Mr. FORD's head although he personally likes and respects Mr. FORD as a man.

MILLER did advise however, that some four or five years ago Mr. FORD had accepted some type of airline transportation from the Amway Corporation in Grand Rapids, Michigan. MILLER emphasized that this was only a rumor and he stated he could not remember who the source of that rumor was.

DE 161-1355
TJL/dmw/mmr - 1

ASSOCIATE

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

THOMAS EDWARD WALSH, retired Airport Consultant, 314 Lakewood, East Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 949-0586, stated that he has known appointee since appointee's first congressional campaign in the late 1940s. Since that time he has worked for appointee's re-election in numerous campaigns in various non-financial capacities. Generally he has telephonically canvassed voters and otherwise "beat the bushes" on appointee's behalf. He never acted as a fund raiser for him nor does he have any information relating to appointee's campaign financing. He has never heard any hint of irregularities in such financial matters.

Mr. WALSH feels that by virtue of appointee's high character and morals and his excellent service as a legislator, he would be a fine choice for Vice President. According to WALSH, his loyalty to the country is above reproach.

Mr. WALSH has had several dealings with appointee over the years on various matters relating to airport construction and matters relating to airport management. Appointee has always maintained the highest standard of ethics in these dealings and Mr. WALSH considers his character and reputation to be impeccable. He knows of no questionable business transaction or association which would reflect adversely on appointee's ability to hold the high office.

He has never heard appointee make any derogatory statement or take any position prejudicial to members of minority groups. He considers appointee to be unbiased in his approach to racial issues.

Mr. WALSH is acquainted with members of appointee's family, including his wife, BETTY, and considers them to be long standing, highly reputable members of the community. Mr. WALSH considers appointee a good choice for the office of Vice President and recommends him very highly.

DE 161-1533
JDG:cgp:MOS - 1

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BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

J. H. FLES, Chairman of the Board, Associated Trucks Lines, Incorporated, 200 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone 454-9381, was contacted at his office and he advised that he has known the Vice President appointee GERALD R. FORD for the past 25 years.

Mr. FLES advised that he first met Mr. FORD when he, Mr. FLES, was a member of the executive committee of the American Trucking Association. He stated that he has had little contact with Mr. FORD through the years, but because he is a constituent from the Fifth District of Michigan he has opinions of Mr. FORD.

Mr. FLES advised that he considers GERALD FORD to have the highest integrity and high moral standards. He stated GERALD FORD has performed a tremendous service for the Fifth District of Michigan, is a very conscientious and hard working man.

Mr. FLES advised in his opinion Mr. FORD is pro-minority and is well thought of in the minority committees at the Fifth District of Michigan.

Mr. FLES stated that associates of Mr. FORD's with whom he is acquainted are the highest caliber. Mr. FLES stated that he is not familiar with Mr. FORD's ability as an attorney.

Mr. FLES stated that GERALD FORD has a gift for decision making and the ability to utilize others in the decision making process. He advised that Mr. FORD is a man of his word and has a true concern for the common man.

Mr. FLES stated that he would not hesitate to recommend GERALD FORD for the office of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
IAB/dmw/pjf - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

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THORNE J. BROWN, 937 Chippewa Drive, SE, Grand Rapids, telephone number CH 5-9454, was contacted and advised that for years he has been involved with the scouting of athletes for the University of Michigan. In this capacity BROWN helped steer the appointee to the University of Michigan where he played football. It was during this period of time that BROWN came to know appointee's family all of whom are of the highest character. At the University of Michigan the appointee worked hard, made good grades, and was known to have an excellent character. After graduating from the University of Michigan, the appointee attended Yale University Law School where he served as an assistant football coach. After receiving his law degree and being admitted to the Michigan Bar, the appointee returned to the Grand Rapids area where he entered law practice. BROWN recalled that approximately 25 years ago the appointee expressed an interest in politics at which time BROWN and 25 other individuals urged him to run for the House of Representatives.

BROWN advised that he had the highest regard for the appointee and that he was extremely pleased that a man of the appointee's character was nominated to the high office of the Vice President of the United States. BROWN advised that he knew of absolutely no derogatory information regarding either the appointee or any members of his family. It is his feeling that if the appointee's nomination is confirmed there is no chance he would ever bring embarrassment upon the President of the United States or our country.

BROWN advised that he knows for a fact that the appointee has a good rapport with all groups in the Grand Rapids area and has the respects of all constituents.

DE 161-1355
FHW/cjn - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [REDACTED] on October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he is the former [REDACTED] of the Consumers Power Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, having held that position for about 17 years prior to retiring approximately three years ago. [REDACTED] advised he has been a personal friend of Mr. GERALD FORD for about the last 15 years, during which time he has come to know Mr. FORD and his family very well. [REDACTED] considers Mr. FORD to be a loyal American citizen of the highest character and morals whose associates are above reproach. He described Mr. FORD as a reliable, honest member of the United States House of Representatives. He has never heard anything derogatory about Mr. FORD and has complete confidence in him. [REDACTED] highly recommends appointee FORD for the position of Vice President of the United States of America. [REDACTED] advised he has never discussed civil rights with Mr. FORD, but knows Mr. FORD is sincerely concerned for the rights of all citizens of the United States.

DE 161-1355
LJM/dlc - 1

ASSOCIATES

b6
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

LAWRENCE DENNIS RAHILLY, SR., Former Chairman of the Board, Interstate Motor Freight Company, home address 2000 Coronado SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, presently on the Board of Trustees, Central Michigan University, Board of Trustees, St. Mary's Hospital, Director of Old Kent Bank, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Director of Rapidstan, Incorporated, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was contacted at his office, at 226 Lyon Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. RAHILLY has known GERALD FORD since 1947 through the present. RAHILLY has been a Democrat all his life and has never been involved with Mr. FORD in any business dealings or political endeavors.

RAHILLY described GERALD FORD as the hardest worker he has ever seen with unimpeachable moral standards. Mr. FORD is unquestionably fit to serve the people of the United States and is extremely loyal to his country. RAHILLY has never asked Mr. FORD for a favor and in turn has never requested a favor of Mr. FORD.

RAHILLY has had many dealings with prominent minority leaders and has never heard anyone use any unkind words toward Mr. FORD.

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 18, 1973, by SA [REDACTED]

LEWIS V. CHAMBERLIN, President, Grand Rapids Steel and Supply Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1628 Pontiac, Grand Rapids, telephone 452-9190, stated that he has been a close personal friend of Vice Presidential appointee GERALD R. FORD since the late 1940's, and of his wife, BETTY FORD since his childhood. He regards Congressman FORD as a hardworking dedicated public servant of unquestioned reputation and feels he would be a very capable Vice President. He considers him a man of high ethical character and knows of no derogatory information regarding his morals or those of his family.

CHAMBERLIN stated that he has never actively participated in any of Mr. FORD's re-election campaigns other than to make small donations of \$25.00 to \$50.00. He has had no business dealings with Mr. FORD or members of his Congressional Staff. He has no personal knowledge of any aspect of Mr. FORD's campaign financing nor does he personally know anyone who might have contributed large amounts of money to any of his campaigns. He feels certain that FORD is not the type of individual to receive favors in connection with his official legislative duties and certainly not one to benefit personally by virtue of his office.

CHAMBERLIN pointed out that he is a Director of the Old Kent Bank in Grand Rapids and that Mr. FORD resigned his directorship immediately after his election for the sole purpose of avoiding any hint of a conflict of interest.

CHAMBERLIN characterized Mr. FORD as a completely honest individual who would be an asset to the office of Vice President and gives him his highest recommendation.

DE 161-1355
JFC/cjn - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

[redacted]
[redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is
employed as a [redacted] for Congressman
FORD, was interviewed at Mr. FORD's office at the
Federal Building in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

[redacted] stated he has been employed by
Mr. FORD in the above capacity since March, 1973. He
has only known Mr. FORD on a limited basis since being
interviewed and subsequently hired by Mr. FORD in
February, 1973.

[redacted] stated that he has never possessed,
during his limited period of employment, any information
to indicate that Mr. FORD has acted improperly or in a
nonprudent manner.

[redacted] stated he has been impressed
with the vitality and drive possessed by Mr. FORD, as well
as his complete dedication to his constituents. He
believed that Mr. FORD possesses the necessary qualities
to become an outstanding Vice President, specifically as to
ability, character, and understanding. He said he would
have no hesitation in recommending Mr. FORD for such a
high office.

DE 161-1355
RMB/KAB/jbm - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

[], Waters
Building, Grand Rapids, advised that he has known GERALD
R. FORD through his involvement with the Republican Party
at Grand Rapids. He stated he was []
[] in Grand Rapids and has been acquainted with
Mr. FORD since 1966.

[] commented favorably regarding Mr. FORD's
character, associates, and loyalty. He further stated that
Mr. FORD is a man of high moral character and that the
individuals with whom he associates are men of high repute
within the community. [] advised that Mr. FORD is a loyal
American.

During the course of the interview, []
advised that in 1972, he was nominated to run on the
Republican ticket for []
and that Mr. FORD had contributed a sum of \$200.00 to his
campaign and that this \$200.00 was excess FORD campaign
funds.

[] further stated that in 1967, he had attended
the Young Republicans National Leadership Training School
in Washington, D. C., and the funding for this school was
obtained from excess FORD campaign funds. [] stated that
Mr. FORD has given excess FORD campaign funds to other young
individuals in order that they may attend this school.

In the area of qualifications, [] advised
that he could briefly comment on Mr. FORD's qualifications
as an attorney inasmuch as he [] had worked for the
Grand Rapids law firm of Law, Fallon, Weathers, Richardson,
and Dutcher, which was the same firm Mr. FORD had worked for
when he had separated from the United States Navy at the
end of World War II.

DE 161-1355
RMB/kab/mmr - 2

[] stated that Mr. FORD was held in high esteem by the individuals there at the firm and was described as a competent and hardworking individual.

[] stated he could also comment on Mr. FORD's qualifications insofar as his appointment is concerned. [] advised that he felt Mr. FORD was qualified for the Vice Presidency in view of his legal background and in view of his vast experience as a member of Congress. He further stated that Mr. FORD is a highly organized individual and felt that this fact, coupled with his ability to work with other people, would qualify him for a high Government position.

[] advised that he did not specifically recall any time at which he discussed civil rights with Mr. FORD; however, he stated that he believed Mr. FORD's policy in this area was that all people are entitled to equal treatment.

In closing, [] advised that he could provide no derogatory information regarding Mr. FORD or his family and highly recommended Mr. FORD for a position of trust and confidence with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355
RWK:dkd - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at Birmingham, Michigan,
on October 19, 1973:

[redacted]
[redacted] Birmingham,
Michigan, [redacted] residing in Bloomfield Hills,
Michigan, advised that he has been personally acquainted
with GERALD FORD for approximately 40 years.

[redacted] stated that in 1934, he was the
[redacted] of the University of Michigan (UM) football team,
which was the champion of the Big Ten football division.
During this championship season, appointee, a sophomore
at the UM, was a member of the team. After [redacted]
graduated from the UM in 1935, he did not again see ap-
pointee until after appointee returned to Michigan upon
completion of his military service after World War II.

Since appointee was elected to the United States
House of Representatives in 1946, [redacted] has been in
contact with him on many occasions and would describe their
relationship as being "good friends", however, [redacted]
has had no business association with appointee whatsoever.
[redacted] further stated that he has never represented
appointee in any legal matter. He last saw appointee ap-
proximately three years ago at a political, fund raising
dinner held in honor of former Vice President SPIRO T.
AGNEW at Cobo Hall, Detroit, Michigan.

[redacted] described appointee as being a hard-
working, decent man, who will do his best in whatever
situation he finds himself. [redacted] is unaware of
any information that would reflect in the least bit ad-
versely against appointee personally or politically. He
further stated that he would have no hesitation in seeing
appointee hold the office of Vice President of the United
States.

DE 161-1355
LGM/jbm/mmr - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[], Grand
Rapids, [], Grand Valley State
College, Allendale, Michigan, []

[], advised he has
been very well acquainted with Congressman GERALD R. FORD
for the past 23 years. He stated he and Mr. FORD are
members of the same church, as well as members of the Grand
Rapids Breakfast Club. He stated during the past 23 years
he has had numerous contacts with Mr. FORD, both on a social
basis, as well as a business basis. He stated he has always
had a great admiration for Mr. FORD, found him to be an
extremely honest individual with very high morals, completely
loyal, and his integrity is beyond reproach. He stated he
considers Mr. FORD to be a completely fair individual, very
trustworthy, and feels he is extremely well qualified to
handle the position of Vice President of the United States.
He stated, in final analysis, he would consider Mr. FORD to
be "one of the most honest politicians he has ever known."

[] stated that during the full time he has
been acquainted with Mr. FORD, [] was the []
[] at Grand Rapids until he retired in 1971. In connection
with his work with [] he had many occasions to contact
Mr. FORD, as well as to contact many of the public officials
and leaders of the business community. At no time during those
years did [] ever receive any information or hear any
comments made which would indicate dishonesty on the part of
Mr. FORD or any underhanded practices which would reflect
unfavorably on the part of Mr. FORD. [] stated
Mr. FORD is extremely well regarded by members of both Republican
and Democratic parties, as well as the entire community in the
Grand Rapids area.

DE 161-1355
AW/kpd -1

ACQUAINTANCE

[redacted] Model Neighborhood Citizen Committee, 121 Franklin Street, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised he has known GERALD R. FORD for approximately four years.

[redacted] advised that he became familiar with Mr. FORD in the process of organizing the local Model Cities Program in Grand Rapids.

He stated that he considers Mr. FORD to be a very honest, dedicated politician who has had the will and power to get things done as a party leader. He feels he has been very successful at doing so especially for the constituents of his district. He feels that Mr. FORD can identify with people of his area.

[redacted] stated that Mr. FORD is concerned about the civil rights of all individuals. He feels Mr. FORD has shown no evidence of racial discrimination in efforts to make life better for all people of this country.

[redacted] advised he has only the highest regards for Mr. FORD as an individual and he knows of no derogatory information that will prevent Mr. FORD from faithfully serving as Vice President.

The above investigation was conducted by [redacted]
at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973.

DE 161-1355
JCE/lcc/mmr - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATES

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The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

Mr. ROBERT W. SCHELLENBERG, [] Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone number 245-1619, advised he was first appointed to the position of Commissioner on the Kent County Board of Commissioners in February, 1972, to fill the vacancy following the death of a Board Member. He was elected to this post in January, 1973, at which time he ran as a Republican.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG stated he has known Representative GERALD R. FORD of the Fifth Congressional District since approximately 1962. He has become better acquainted with him in the last three years because of his position as a Kent County Commissioner. He stated he has visited Mr. FORD's office in Washington, D.C., on several occasions on county business. He advised that Mr. FORD on those occasions put him in touch with the responsible Federal agency parties who could best answer his inquiries.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG further stated that Mr. FORD has always been most responsive to inquiries from him as a Commissioner and as a private citizen. SCHELLENBERG described Mr. FORD's approach toward his constituents as being both highly cooperative, while at the same time, being very congenial. He believes Mr. FORD has been a most effective Congressional leader and doing an outstanding job.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG was unable to provide any derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD and/or any member of his family. He stated that he has never met any member of Mr. FORD's family and, because of that, would be unable to comment in that regard. Further, he said he has no hesitation in recommending Mr. FORD for any position in the Federal Government or any other public agency. He stated he has heard nothing of a derogatory nature concerning associates of Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355
JCE/lcc/mmr - 2

Mr. SCHELLENBERG believes Mr. FORD has an impeccable character and has demonstrated moral leadership during his term in Congress. He stated further his loyalty is beyond reproach and believes him to be one of the most highly qualified persons who could have been chosen for Vice President of the United States.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG again reaffirmed his belief that Mr. FORD is highly qualified for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
WAT/nar/pjw -1

The following investigation was conducted at
Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [redacted] on
October 17, 1973:

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[redacted] advised that he resides
at [redacted] advised he has known Mr. FORD
for approximately ten years socially. He has heard
no derogatory comments regarding Mr. FORD's character
and added that Mr. FORD is an easygoing, courteous individual,
"...the kind one enjoys knowing". [redacted] described
Mr. FORD's reputation as excellent. He does not know
any of Mr. FORD's associates other than by sight and only
those who generally golf with Mr. FORD. Mr. FORD is
loyal to the United States and [redacted] added that he
would recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President
of the United States. He is not cognizant of any
indiscretions regarding Mr. FORD. He concluded that
Grand Rapids is lucky to have an individual such as Mr. FORD
representing them.

DE 161-1355
GOS/emp - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

b6
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] at Lyons, Michigan, on October 18, 1973:

Mr. HARRY E. ROGERS, Lyons Village President, []
[] Lyons, telephone number [] stated he has been acquaint-
ed with GERALD R. FORD for 12 years in his capacity as a local government
official, but he does not know him personally.

He stated he considers Mr. FORD to be an extremely honest
man who backs up what he says with action. He regards Mr. FORD to be
a man of high morals and unblemished character. He further advised
Mr. FORD is an extremely loyal American who works hard to satisfy the
needs of his constituents. He stated Mr. FORD believes strongly in
equal rights for everyone and endeavors to see that this principle is
followed.

He advised that he has no knowledge concerning Mr. FORD's
financial background, qualifications as an attorney, or associates.
He stated he knew absolutely nothing derogatory about Mr. FORD and he
would recommend him highly for the position of Vice President of the
United States.

DE 161-1355
PLM/pjw -1

ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA PHILIP L. MERCADO on October 17, 1973, at Birmingham,
Michigan:

[redacted], Birmingham,
Michigan, residence telephone [redacted], stated he is
employed as [redacted]
[redacted], Detroit,
Michigan, telephone number [redacted].

[redacted] stated he has been acquainted with
the Vice Presidential appointee, GERALD R. FORD, since 1931,
when the appointee, as a student at the University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, joined the Delta Kappa
Epsilon social fraternity on that campus, where [redacted]
was also a member.

[redacted] stated he and the appointee were members
of the University of Michigan football team where the
appointee excelled as an athlete.

[redacted] stated he has maintained a reasonably
close social and political association with the appointee
to the present time. He stated he is not well acquainted
with the appointee's immediate family. In 1962 [redacted]
[redacted], also known as [redacted]
[redacted] Lincoln, Illinois, was employed
while a college student during the summer of 1962 or 1963
at Washington, D. C. by the appointee in an intern program
during which time [redacted] found her relationship most
satisfactory and reported nothing of a derogatory nature
to her parents concerning the appointee.

[redacted] stated he has nothing but high regard
for the appointee in every respect. He considers the
appointee to be a completely loyal American citizen of high
integrity and intelligence. He knows little of the appointee's
financial background and activities, but recalled the appointee
worked hard while at the University of Michigan, and was
employed in the kitchen of the fraternity. At Yale University,
the appointee worked as an assistant football coach.

DE 161-1355
PLM/pjq - 2

[] stated he could modestly describe the appointee as "an all American boy", who has always enjoyed excellent character, morals and associates.

[] stated he recalled the appointee practiced law about two years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before entering politics in 1948. It was his recollection the appointee was held in high regard in reference to his ability as a lawyer.

[] stated he has never had an occasion to discuss with the appointee his views on civil rights, but did recall that the appointee as far back as his college days had great respect for all people.

[] stated that in knowing no derogatory information concerning the appointee, he would highly recommend him for a position of great trust and responsibility with the United States Government.

DE 161-1355
MAT/dlc:msl - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

[] Grand Rapids,
Michigan, advised that he has been acquainted with Mr. FORD
for many years, beginning with their high school days when
they played football at opposing schools in Grand Rapids,
Michigan. He stated that he became politically associated
with Mr. FORD in 1942 when they began campaigning for the
county offices in the area.

[] stated that ever since Mr. FORD was first
elected in the Grand Rapids area, he has remained the top vote
getter and has had no problem with retaining his elected
position due to the popularity which he enjoys in this district
among both Democrats and Republicans. He advised that Mr. FORD
is a fine community man and that he has never known Mr. FORD to
do anything which did not involve the good of the community or
others which he was serving. He advised that Mr. FORD has a
very strong feeling for people, both young and old, and that
this feeling extends to all people regardless of political
party, race, or creed. He stated that Mr. FORD is the type of
individual who is hard to consider as a politician.

[] stated that Mr. FORD's honesty is remarkably
noteworthy and that Mr. FORD's reputation reflects these
qualities. He stated that Mr. FORD's associates are of the
finest character and reputation.

He advised that he is well acquainted with Mrs. FORD
as well as Mr. FORD and he describes their marriage of twentyfive
years as ideal, and stated that she enjoys the same respect
as Mr. FORD. He stated that although Mrs. FORD has been
previously divorced, there is no scandal or derogatory
information regarding this divorce and that there is nothing
in her past or present life which would reflect negatively on her.

He stated that regarding Mr. FORD's loyalty to the
country, he is very definitely the kind of man this country
needs. He stated that Mr. FORD is not an intellectual genius.

DE 161-1355
MAT/dlc:msl - 2

but he feels that he is most definitely qualified and capable of filling this position. Should the occasion arise, [] [] feels that Mr. FORD could very capably handle the Presidency of the United States.

DE 161-1355
KSB/rlg:mam - 1

ACQUAINTANCE

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan:

DONALD V. SOUTER, [redacted] Grand
Rapids, telephone [redacted] was interviewed at his law firm
office at 755 Old Kent Building, telephone 774-2131. SOUTER
stated that he has been actively involved in Republican Party
activities in Kent County since 1950. From 1950 through 1968
SOUTER held the position of Precinct Delegate. In 1967, SOUTER
was involved in financing activities sponsored by the Kent
County Republican Committee.

SOUTER contacts Mr. FORD on occasion and these contacts
derive from SOUTER's active part in the County Republication
organization. SOUTER established a personal acquaintance with
Mr. FORD in early 1950. He has submitted numerous inquiries
to Mr. FORD's office in Washington, D.C., on matters of both
local and national interest. SOUTER has always been impressed
with Mr. FORD's promptness in replying to such inquiries.

SOUTER described Mr. FORD as an extremely conscientious
man and a public official of the highest moral stature. SOUTER
advised that Mr. FORD's character and loyalty are beyond reproach.

SOUTER concluded that Mr. FORD possesses the attri-
butes and qualities for appointment to high political office.

DE 161-1355
MJH/cp:lcc - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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Mr. BERNARD E. PASSAGE, Manager of the Civic Auditorium, Grand Rapids, Michigan, residing at [redacted], Grand Rapids, was interviewed regarding his present and past activities with Mr. FORD.

Mr. PASSAGE stated that he has known Mr. FORD casually for the past forty years. He attended high school with Mr. FORD at Grand Rapids. Mr. PASSAGE stated that he has attended various social functions with Mr. FORD since high school and had contact with Mr. FORD politically when Mr. PASSAGE was City Manager in Grand Rapids. Since resigning as City Manager, Mr. PASSAGE has had contact with Mr. FORD through his position as Manager of the Civic Auditorium where Mr. FORD has given several political speeches. Through the above contacts, Mr. PASSAGE has come to the conclusion that Mr. FORD is an outstanding American citizen and praised Mr. FORD for his character, honesty, and reliability as a politician and a man. Mr. PASSAGE stated that he considers himself a very candid individual and would be the first to provide any derogatory information on any politician that he knew. During the past forty years, he has not observed any instance where Mr. FORD has compromised his character or position as a Congressman.

Mr. PASSAGE stated that he would trust Mr. FORD "with his last dollar." Mr. PASSAGE has had several business relationships with Mr. FORD's family and stated that his relationship was scrupulous and impeccable.

Mr. PASSAGE knew of no unfavorable information concerning Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, morals, civil rights attitudes, and recommended Mr. FORD very highly for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
EHH/KAB - 1

SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Ionia,
Michigan:

[],
Ionia, Michigan, [] Insurance
Agency, Ionia, Michigan, advised that he has known
Mr. GERALD FORD since 1958. [] stated he does not
know FORD personally but has met him socially at numerous
Republican functions at the Ionia area over the past ten
years.

[] stated Mr. FORD's reputation, loyalty,
and ability as a Congressman, while representing his district,
has been of the highest caliber. [] could see no
reason why Mr. FORD would not make an outstanding Vice-
President for the United States.

[] could offer no personal comments
on Mr. FORD's character or personal habits. However,
concerning Mr. FORD's reputation in the Ionia area, he
feels Mr. FORD to be an outstanding representative and
a truly fine individual.

DE 161-1355
OJZ/dlc - 1

POLITICAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], on October 17, 1973, at Ionia
County, Michigan:

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Mr. JOHANNES G. WOLTHUIS, Chairman of the Ionia County Democratic Party, [REDACTED] Ionia, Michigan, advised that he has known of Mr. FORD since they both attended South High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the same time. He advised that he does meet with Mr. FORD when Mr. FORD is in town, but advised that he does not know him on a social basis.

Mr. WOLTHUIS advised that in his opinion, Mr. FORD is a man of his word, a man of great integrity, very cooperative, and does not draw party lines if he can be of any assistance. WOLTHUIS advised that although he disagrees with Mr. FORD on some political matters, he feels that he would make a fine Vice President.

Mr. WOLTHUIS stated that concerning Mr. FORD's character, loyalty and ability, he would certainly recommend him for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
JCE/kpd -1

b6
b7C

POLITICAL ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

PETER BROUWER, [redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, residence telephone [redacted] was contacted. He advised he is an elected member of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. He stated he is a member of the Republican Party and was elected as such.

BROUWER stated he has been a member of the Board for less than one year; however, he has known Congressman GERALD R. FORD, JR. since approximately 1930. Their association has been of a professional-political nature. He stated he has met Congressman FORD and his wife on a few occasions in a social context. Further, BROUWER advised from approximately 1960 to 1968, he represented the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association. During this time, he had numerous contacts with Congressman FORD and other elected officials. Both during that time, prior to that time and since then, BROUWER characterized Congressman FORD as being a most responsive Representative.

BROUWER advised he knows of no derogatory information concerning the Congressman and/or members of his family. He stated he recalled that approximately two years ago, he was aware that Congressman FORD had been recommended by Board members of the Old Kent Bank of Grand Rapids to become a Board member. He recalled from newspaper accounts that apparently Representative FORD was receptive to this appointment; however, shortly thereafter, requested the Board to withdraw his name from consideration. BROUWER recalled the reason for this as reported in the newspaper was that Representative FORD wanted to avoid any possible appearance of a conflict of interest.

BROUWER stated he would have no hesitation in recommending Congressman FORD for any position in the local, state or national government.

DE 161-1355
OJZ/dmw - 1

b6
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], at Ionia County, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Attorneys at Law, [REDACTED], Ionia,
Michigan, advised that he has known Mr. GERALD FORD since
the fall elections in 1962. He stated that he has been
friends with Mr. FORD for the past five years and has
entertained Mr. FORD at his residence on numerous occasions.
Several of these functions were Republican Party fund raising
get-togethers.

[REDACTED] stated that it was his opinion that
Mr. FORD is the most qualified individual available for the
position of Vice President and considers him to be the
most highly ethical and moral individual with whom he has
ever come in contact. He believes Mr. FORD's primary concern
is the welfare of his constituents and for this reason is
sad to lose Mr. FORD as a representative in the Congress.

He stated, however, that the country will benefit
greatly having a man like GERALD FORD as its Vice President.
[REDACTED] advised that he would highly recommend Mr. FORD
for the position of Vice President of the United States and
could offer no derogatory information concerning him.

DE 161-1355
MJH/emp - 1

SOCIAL ACQUAINTANCE

The following investigation was conducted by SA []
[] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[] Haven Bush Company,
residing at [], telephone number [],
Grand Rapids, Michigan, born [], in Chicago, Illinois,
was interviewed in regards to his past and present association with
GERALD FORD. [] advised that he has known GERALD FORD on a
casual, social and political basis since 1928 when they attended
high school together in Grand Rapids. He stated that he was a
volunteer for GERALD FORD from 1948 to 1965 with the job of soliciting
financial contributions for the campaigns of GERALD FORD. He stated
that his responsibility was to contact private citizens soliciting
contributions ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00. He stated since 1965
he has stopped this activity due to the fact that he suffered a rather
severe heart attack.

[] stated that he does maintain a social relationship
with Mr. FORD at the Kent Country Club where he plays golf with Mr. FORD
on occasions; therefore, since 1965 [] relationship with Mr.
FORD has been strictly on a social basis.

[] advised that from the time that he has known
Mr. FORD beginning in 1928 to present, he has never observed any
derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD's activities whether political
or social.

He described Mr. FORD as being a 100 percent honest in-
dividual and he has on many occasions observed Mr. FORD placing the
country's interest above his own. He stated he is a dedicated American
with consistent ideals possessing physical vigor and a man of great
integrity. He stated that during the early sixties he was very
sympathetic with the civil rights movement and the civil rights ideals
of President KENNEDY and President JOHNSON. [] advised he has
only favorable information concerning Mr. FORD's morals, associates,
loyalty, and his civil rights attitudes.

In conclusion, [] recommended Mr. FORD very highly
for the position of Vice President.

DE 161-1355
JHE/ptm:cb - 1

b6
b7C

ASSOCIATE

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Grand Rapids,
Michigan;

[]
[] Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he
knows appointee GERALD R. FORD personally and sees him at
least once a year at a Chamber of Commerce dinner in his
honor. He advised that Mr. FORD was a member of the Grand
Rapids Chamber of Commerce from 1948 until March of 1961.

[] advised that Mr. FORD is of the highest
character and has an outstanding reputation in the community.
He advised that his loyalty is "ingrained in him like his
life's blood" and his associates and friends are of the
highest quality. He advised that he truly believes Mr.
FORD will be an outstanding vice president.

[] advised that as far as he knows, Mr.
FORD was a strong civil rights advocate and that he had a
"down to earth quality" as an attorney.

DE 161-1355
MJH/ptm - 1

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Grand
Rapids, Michigan:

[]
[] located at [],
Grand Rapids, residing at [], Grand Rapids,
stated that he has known GERALD FORD since high school in the late
twenties and would consider GERALD FORD a casual social
acquaintance.

[] stated that his casual social acquaintance
has been coupled with intermittent political contacts which
were of small consequence. One of these political contacts
occurred when, representing a client, he forwarded several
pieces of correspondence to GERALD FORD as a Congressman
regarding several interviews with [] dealing with tax
legislation. Also approximately 15 years ago, []
advised that he handled a bank account for GERALD FORD consisting
of approximately \$500.00, which dealt with a news letter
published by GERALD FORD's political operation. The handling
of this account consisted of payment of printing bills and
dissemination of this news letter.

[] advised that throughout his years of both
political and social contacts with Mr. FORD and his family,
he has observed nothing unfavorable relative to Mr. FORD or
his activities.

He characterized Mr. FORD as possessing high
integrity and high morals and is indeed a most likable person.
[] stated that he has been located in the Grand Rapids
area his entire life and knew nothing to question the character
or reputation of GERALD FORD.

[] advised that he has been []
the Michigan Bankers Association for several years and, to the
best of his knowledge, he has never seen funds transferred from
the Michigan Bankers Association to any organization connected
with GERALD FORD. However, he did state that the Michigan Bank
Political Action Committee was in the habit of making contri-
butions to political candidates and GERALD FORD may have received
some money from this organization. This organization, however,
made public all of its contributions.

DE 161-1355
MJH/ptm - 2

[] said he knew of no unfavorable information pertaining to the loyalty, integrity, associates, civil rights attitudes, and reputation of GERALD FORD. [] recommended Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President with the highest of regards.

ORGANIZATIONS

DE 161-1355
AJM/srd - 1

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b7C

ORGANIZATIONS

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973:

AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN:

[] Bookkeeper, Kent Country Club,
furnished the following information:

[] is currently [] of the
Kent Country Club, but he has been [] for a few months
and is not very familiar with the membership. The previous
[] retired and has moved from the Grand Rapids
area.

The Kent Country Club is primarily a golf and
social club. There are no written or implied covenants
restricting membership in the club as to race, sex,
color, or creed.

GERALD R. FORD has been a member of the Kent
Country Club for at least the past 25 years. There are no
records available which would show the exact date when
Mr. FORD joined the club and his original application has
been destroyed. Approximately ten years ago, GERALD R.
FORD was made an honorary member and as such, is not
required to pay dues, etc. The current initiation fee
for club membership is \$2,400 and annual dues and
assessments are \$864.00. Regular members must also pay
a minimum restaurant and bar bill of \$100.00. GERALD R.
FORD has only played golf during the past several years
at the club at the annual "Invitational" Tournament which
is held in August. This is the only exposure Mr. FORD
has had to members of the club and is very popular and
respected by all. She has known FORD for the past 25 years
and can only comment favorably concerning his character and
associations. She could not furnish any derogatory information
whatsoever concerning Mr. FORD.

DE 161-1355
AJM/srd - 2

[redacted] Kent Country Club, furnished the following information:

He has known GERALD R. FORD in his capacity as [redacted] at the Kent Country Club. He knows nothing about FORD's personal, political, or professional life and therefore could not comment about Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, associates or ability. GERALD R. FORD only visits Kent Country Club on an annual basis to play in the "Invitational" Tournament that is held in August and to his knowledge always plays with JOHN P. MILANOWSKI, the current United States Attorney in Grand Rapids. On the golf course, FORD is an even tempered and courteous individual who never loses his composure over the frustrations of the game of golf. FORD appears to be in good physical condition and is very popular at the club. [redacted] knew of no derogatory information concerning FORD and he believed FORD has the intelligence and over all ability to be Vice President or President of the United States.

[redacted] Secretary, Kent Country Club, advised that she has only been employed at the club for approximately six years and during this time saw GERALD R. FORD at the club only at the annual "Invitational" Tournament. She advised that she does not know him personally, but in all of her conversations with members that are acquainted with FORD, has only heard complimentary remarks and no derogatory information regarding FORD.

DE 161-1355
JHC/KAB - 1

ORGANIZATIONS

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 18, 1973:

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WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS, Chief Deputy, Clerk of
Court, Kent County, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised the
Clerk's Office maintained no copies of financial records
relating to the Laps or Lithuanians For Ford Committee.
Mr. FITZSIMMONS advised this type of committee is not
usually required to file financial reports.

DE 161-1355
RDC/jas - 1

ORGANIZATIONS

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED], on October 19, 1973, at Lansing,
Michigan:

[REDACTED] Secretary, Member Records
Section, Michigan Farm Bureau Headquarters, 7373 West
Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, advised GERALD R. FORD has
been a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau since 1950,
and has paid his membership dues through 1974.

[REDACTED] advised there are no membership
restrictions to the Michigan Farm Bureau, and that
Michigan Farm Bureau does not discriminate against any
individual who wishes to join.

Mr. FORD is a member in good standing.

RELATIVES

DE 161-1355
RMB:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted at
Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Special Agent [REDACTED],
on October 16, 1973:

[REDACTED]
Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that she has been a neighbor
of the RICHARD A. FORD family for five years. [REDACTED]
stated that Mr. FORD and his family live at 1547 Woodcliff Drive,
East Grand Rapids, Michigan. She could provide no derogatory
information regarding Mr. RICHARD A. FORD and his family.

DE 161-1355
WTH:cp 1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

[redacted] Grand Rapids, Michigan, was interviewed regarding [redacted] Mr. THOMAS FORD of 900 Pinecrest Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He furnished the following information:

He has known FORD for approximately seven years during which time, Mr. FORD has resided at 900 Pinecrest Avenue SE, and continues to reside there. He advised that Mr. FORD has enjoyed an excellent reputation and has been considered to be a fine upstanding citizen who is completely loyal to his country. He further advised that THOMAS FORD's associates are upstanding individuals and he did not know of any derogatory information regarding THOMAS FORD or his brother, Mr. GERALD FORD.

DE 161-1355
WTH/cp:cb - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [REDACTED], at Grand Rapids, Michigan,
on October 16, 1973:

[REDACTED], Grand Rapids,
Michigan, was interviewed regarding [REDACTED],
Dr. JAMES F. FORD of 1059 Idema, Southeast, Grand Rapids,
Michigan. She stated that Dr. JAMES F. FORD currently re-
sides at 1059 Idema, Southeast, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and
he has an excellent reputation as an outstanding loyal
American of high moral character. She also said that Mr.
FORD associates with decent people and she could not think
of any derogatory information regarding JAMES F. FORD, or
his brother, appointee, GERALD FORD.

CREDIT

DE 161-1355
DLB/cel - 1

CREDIT

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October
17, 1973:

[redacted], Merchants Service Bureau, 190 Monroe, Northwest, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised his office has a record for GERALD R. FORD, JR., dating back to May, 1940. His records indicate that in May, 1940, Mr. FORD resided at 1011 Santa Cruz, Southeast, Grand Rapids; in 1948, he resided at 330 Washington, Southeast, Grand Rapids, and since July, 1950, he has maintained a residence at 1624 Sherman, Southeast, Grand Rapids. His records indicate Mr. FORD resided at 2500 Que Street, Washington, D.C., and since June, 1959, has maintained a residence at 514 Crown View Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

[redacted] records indicate that as of May, 1940, Mr. FORD was a student at Yale University and a coach of the varsity football team at that university. In June, 1941, Mr. FORD was admitted to the Grand Rapids Bar Association and in July, 1941, a co-partnership was formed between GERALD R. FORD, JR., and PHILIP BUCHEN. This partnership was discontinued in April, 1963.

In April, 1942, Mr. FORD was a member of the United States Navy and was discharged as a Lieutenant Commander.

In 1946, Mr. FORD was employed by the law firm of Butterfield, Kliney and Amberg. In January, 1951, the name of this law firm was changed to Amberg, Law and Buchen. The full names of AMBERG and LAW are JULIUS H. AMBERG and R. DALE LAW.

In September, 1948, an assumed name was filed by Mr. FORD, JOHN B. MARTIN, JR., A. ROBERT KLINERY and ROBERT W. DILLEY as "All Veteran Housing Committee".

DE 161-1355
DLB/cel - 2

In April, 1962, a co-partnership was filed by PHILIP W. BUCHEN and Mr. GERALD R. FORD as attorneys at 425 Cherry, Southeast, Grand Rapids.

[] advised that Mr. GERALD R. FORD, JR., was born July 14, 1913, and is married to ELIZABETH L. BLOOMER. [] advised that his files contain no record of any credit activities by FORD.

ARREST

DE 161-1355
BEY:js - 1

Driving Record

The following investigation was conducted
by SA [redacted] on October 16, 1973, at Lansing,
Michigan:

[redacted] Supervisor, Driver Services
Division, Michigan Secretary of State, advised GERALD R.
FORD, born July 14, 1913, has Michigan operators license
F 630-275-751-557, which shows his address as 1624 Sherman
Street, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is restricted to
corrective lenses. On September 30, 1970, Mr. FORD was
issued a citation for "fail to signal and/or observe";
no disposition shown at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

DE 161-1355
WAT:nar - 1

The following investigation was conducted at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by SA [] on October 17, 1973:

[] Office Manager, 61st District Court, telephone number [], displayed receipt number 16966 for \$12.00 for traffic citation number E56557, violation 7 (interference), and circumstances regarding the aforementioned violation by GERALD RUDOLPH FORD, date of birth July 14, 1913, dated September 29, 1970, for the City of Grand Rapids, County of Kent, State of Michigan, Offense Code 2273. In addition, [] furnished a copy of the officers notes regarding the violation. A copy of the aforementioned documents are attached hereto.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF KENT
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

No. E. 56557

Offense Code 2273

TRAFFIC CITATION - Complaint

IN THE POLICE COURT OF GRAND RAPIDS THE UNDERSIGNED BEING DULY SWORN SAYS: (See B.C.L.W.)

THAT ON TUES SEPT 29 19 70 AT 8 P.M.

☒ OPER. ☐ CHAUF. F 630 275 751 557 MICH

NAME GERALD RUDOLPH FORD JR

STREET 1624 SHERMAN SE

CITY & STATE GR MICH DIST. NO. 3

PLACE EMPLOYED

HAIR BLU EYES BLU HT. 6-0 WT. 192 SEX M DOB 7-14-43

VEHICLE YR. 70 MAKE OLDS STYLE CONV COLOR BLK/WH

VEH. LIC. NO. DC 703 STATE MICH YEAR 70

OWNER ROW OLDSMOBILE

UPON A PUBLIC HIGHWAY NB I 296 FREEWAY AT

OR NEAR S. OF LEONARD

DID UNLAWFULLY OPERATE SAID VEHICLE IN THE CITY AND COUNTY AFORESAID AND DID THERE COMMIT THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE:

SPEEDING (over limit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 m.p.h. <input type="checkbox"/> 6-9 m.p.h. <input type="checkbox"/> 10 m.p.h. or over			
(m.p.h. in m.p.h. zone.)			
Improper TURN <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Left	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut Corner	<input type="checkbox"/> Into Wrong Lane from Wrong Lane	
Disobeyed TRAFFIC SIGNAL (When Light turned red) <input type="checkbox"/> Past Middle intersection <input type="checkbox"/> Middle of intersection <input type="checkbox"/> Not reached intersection			
Disobeyed STOP SIGN <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong Place <input type="checkbox"/> Walk speed <input type="checkbox"/> Faster			
Improper PASSING <input type="checkbox"/> At intersection <input type="checkbox"/> Cut in <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong side <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong lane <input type="checkbox"/> On Curve			
CHANGE COURSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To interfere			
<input type="checkbox"/> NO SIGNAL. EXPLAIN			
OTHER VIOLATIONS			

IN VIOLATION OF SECTION _____ OF ☐ State Law ☐ Local Ordinance SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

Day of _____ 19 _____
NAME _____ TITLE _____ STATION, UNIT, ETC. _____
SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT _____

Conditions that Increased Seriousness of Violation	SLIPPERY PAVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Rain <input type="checkbox"/> Snow <input type="checkbox"/> Ice	CAUSED PERSON TO DODGE <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian <input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JUST MISSED ACCIDENT	TYPE ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> PD <input type="checkbox"/> PI <input type="checkbox"/> FATAL <input type="checkbox"/> Ped. <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Hit Fixed Object <input type="checkbox"/> Right Angle <input type="checkbox"/> Head on <input type="checkbox"/> Sideswipe <input type="checkbox"/> Rear end <input type="checkbox"/> Ran off Roadway <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection
	DARKNESS <input type="checkbox"/> Night <input type="checkbox"/> Fog <input type="checkbox"/> Snow		
	OTHER TRAFFIC PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Oncoming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian		
	AREA: <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway Type: <input type="checkbox"/> 2 lane <input type="checkbox"/> 3 lane <input type="checkbox"/> 4 lane <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 lane divided		

Court Address _____

*When check mark appears in ☐ at * above, the following is deemed to be incorporated in the above complaint as though fully set forth: "he has investigated, has reasonable and probable grounds to believe".

STATED HE ALMOST GOT ME - I'LL GO TO COURT, MY MOTHER CAME

OFF ON BUNNY NO TRAFFIC ON OUR RIGHT SIDE (NO REG - RAMP AHEAD CAR

OFFICER'S NOTES FOR TESTIFYING IN COURT
☐ DRIVER HAD BEEN DRINKING

C-18 P-253.
WE WERE IN LEFT (WEST) LANE - EAST
OF MERGE LANE FROM I-96 SB UNTO
I-296 NB - AT 50-55 M.P.H. WE SAW
A RAMBLER IN MERGE LANE - AHEAD
OF US - RAMBLER HAD TAIRPIPE HITTING
ON PAVEMENT - MAKING SPARKS - WHILE
RAMBLER WAS STILL IN MERGE LANE
SUBJECT IN OLD CONV (MR. FORD)
PASSED US ON LEFT - WENT INTO
MERGE LANE BEHIND RAMBLER
MR. FORD CAUGHT UP TO REAR OF RAMBLER,
THEN PASSED RAMBLER AT THIS POINT
THE LANE ENDS AT SHOULDER
MR. FORD'S CAR (LEFT WHEELS HIT SHOULDER
CAR RAISING - MR. FORD THEN CUT TO
EAST (RIGHT) IN FRONT OF RAMBLER. RAMBLER
HIT BRAKES - CUT HIS CAR - VERY SHARP
INTO OUR LANE AHEAD OF US. RAMBLER
WAS FORCED INTO ^{LEFT} LANE. MR. FORD
STATED HE SAW SPARKS FROM RAMBLER AND
WAS TRYING TO AVOID SUBJECT. MR. FORD STATED
HE ENTERED X-WAY AT 36TH ST. - DRIVER OF
RAMBLER - M-70 391-070

[Redacted] M [Redacted] OF [Redacted] - RAILROAD
MICH - BUS. AD. [Redacted]

APPEARANCE, PLEA OF GUILTY AND WAIVER

I, the undersigned, do hereby enter my appearance on the complaint of the offense charged on other side of this summons. I have been informed of my right to a trial, that my signature to this plea of guilty will have the same force and effect as a judgment of court, and that this record will be sent to the Licensing Authority of this State (or of the State where I received my license to drive). I do hereby, PLEAD GUILTY to said offense as charged, WAIVE my right to a HEARING by the court, and agree to pay the penalty prescribed for my offense.

(Defendant's Name) _____
(Address) _____
(Driver's License No.) _____

No Personal Checks Accepted by the Police
Court or Traffic Division

SEP-30-70 16966 07- 9-298 A 911 E56557012.00

Date Paid | Receipt No. | Viol. No. | DATE OF TICKET | Court | Remarks | Ticket No. | Amount

This Bail is Hereby Estreated and the same Is Forfeited to the City of Grand Rapids

James J. [Signature]
Judge of the Police Court of Grand Rapids

b6
b7C

DE 161-1355
DLB/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
October 17, 1973:

[REDACTED], Identification Bureau, Grand
Rapids, Michigan, Police Department, and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Identification Bureau, Kent County Sheriff's
Office, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised their offices
have no arrest records identifiable with GERALD R. FORD,
JR., [REDACTED] THOMAS FORD, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] or LESLIE KING, JR.

DE 161-1355
RDC/emp - 1

ARREST CHECKS

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,
Michigan:

Lieutenant [], Michigan State Police
Headquarters, East Lansing, Michigan, advised a complete
search of files contained by the Michigan State Police
does not reflect an arrest record for appointee, GERALD R.
FORD. Lieutenant [] advised only one reference in the
Identification Division was available reflecting Mr. FORD
was fingerprinted by the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Police
Department in January, 1942. The fingerprint card revealed
Mr. FORD was an auxiliary policeman for the Grand Rapids
Police Department.

DE 161-1355
MLC/js/KAB - 1

CRIMINAL

On October 16, 1973, the following agencies were contacted regarding appointee's brother, THOMAS G. FORD, SR., and no identifiable information was revealed from their files:

[redacted]
Identification Division
Michigan State Police Headquarters
Lansing, Michigan

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b7C

[redacted], Criminal Records,
East Lansing, Michigan, Police Department

[redacted]
Criminal Records
Lansing, Michigan, Police Department

ALLEGATIONS

DE 161-1355
PJL/BEE/sas -1

NEWS MEDIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] and SA BRUCE E. ELLAVSKY at Pontiac, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

NIEL J. MUNRO, Managing Editor, "Oakland Press" newspaper, a daily publication in Pontiac, Michigan, advised he has known the appointee since 1961, when he (MUNRO) was Sunday Editor for the "Grand Rapids Press", a daily newspaper in Grand Rapids, Michigan. MUNRO stated the appointee was a "plodding" type of politician, who generally followed the Republican Party line on all issues and generally represented his constituency well in Congress.

MUNRO stated he considered the appointee an honest man of fine reputation and character with high morals. However, MUNRO stated that the appointee does not have the "intellectual horsepower for the Presidency" and that on two occasions in particular, the appointee used bad judgment in business dealings in Grand Rapids during 1964, or 1965.

The appointee, after serving on the Warren Commission, co-authored a book entitled, Portrait of an Assassin with JACK SKILLES (phonetic), a local Grand Rapids realtor. MUNRO stated [redacted] in 1971, was arrested for a disturbance in a local Grand Rapids bar and reportedly threw a "shot glass" at the arresting officers and was incarcerated in the Kent County Jail. MUNRO stated that the appointee was criticized in the local Grand Rapids, Michigan, press for attempting to reap financial gain from his position on the Warren Commission through the publication of the above mentioned book.

MUNRO additionally stated that the appointee in 1964 - 1965 was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Old Kent Bank and Trust in Grand Rapids, Michigan, without any prior experience in the banking business.

DE 161-1355
PJL/BEE/sas -2

MUNRO stated that the above bank was only attempting to "gain influence with individuals in high places" by appointing Mr. FORD to the Board of Directors of the bank. Mr. FORD resigned the position with the bank a few days after his appointment.

MUNRO stated he knows of no additional derogatory information regarding the appointee, and that he considered the appointee well qualified for the United States House of Representatives, but that he has strong reservations regarding the appointee holding a higher position in the Government of the United States.

DE 161-1355
RWM/bjk/pjf - 1

b6
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

Mr. GEORGE SIETSEMA, Branch Manager, Wyoming Office, Michigan Department of State, 3884 South Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number 534-5266, advised he has known Mr. FORD as a political opponent for over 25 years. SIETSEMA advised he is a registered Democrat and extremely active in the local Democratic Committee and has held elected positions as a Democrat; the most recent being that of a Supervisor of Wyoming Township.

SIETSEMA advised he would not recommend Mr. FORD for the position of Vice President, inasmuch as he was a political opponent, but this was the only reason.

SIETSEMA stated that Mr. FORD's character, loyalty, and associates were all excellent. He admitted that Mr. FORD's reputation in the local area was outstanding to the point of making him unbeatable politically. SIETSEMA advised that he had no knowledge of Mr. FORD's legal abilities other than he was an attorney and he had no knowledge concerning Mr. FORD's stand on civil rights.

SIETSEMA advised that over the past years, there have only been two instances regarding GERALD FORD that could be construed as derogatory.

The first was back around 1955, when a complaint had been filed with the Michigan Water Resources Commission regarding pollution of a drainage ditch known as Silver Creek by the Ford Paint and Varnish Company. According to the rumor, the Water Commission investigated the matter and chose not to take any action because Mr. FORD was a stockholder in the Paint and Varnish Company.

The other rumor concerning Mr. FORD concerns a supposed first marriage while he was still attending college. It consisted of the fact that he married a young lady who subsequently financed his education and who was subsequently divorced from Mr. FORD after his graduation from school.

DE 161-1355
JFC/bjk/pjf - 2

SIETSEMA advised that this latest rumor was new and he could not attribute it to any specific individual. He had overheard the rumor while at the October 11, 1973, Democratic Fund Raising Dinner at Aquinas College.

SIETSEMA further advised that he knew of no other derogatory information concerning Mr. FORD and further stated that both of the above rumors were just that, and that he had no substantiation for either of them.

DE 161-1355
RWM/kpd -1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 19, 1973:

[redacted] Water Resources Commission, District 3, 4056 Plainfield, advised that he has known GERALD R. FORD, JR. for over 20 years on a professional basis. In this period of time, they have served on numerous environmental commissions and on various panels concerning the conservation of natural resources. In this period of time, Mr. FORD has conducted himself in a thoroughly professional manner displaying an understanding for the problems of environmental protection in association with the problems of industrial production.

[redacted] advised that he has been with the Water Resources Commission for 25 years in the Grand Rapids area and in this period of time, there has never been a complaint against the Ford Paint and Varnish Company, nor any complaint associating that firm with the Silver Creek drainage ditch. The Paint Company is not located around or near the drainage ditch and in the past 25 years, has never used it in any way for the disposal of their industrial waste. The Silver Creek drainage ditch originates in East Grand Rapids and runs through the southern part of Grand Rapids and the northern portion of Wyoming, Michigan. It is a completely enclosed storm sewer facility, measuring eleven feet in diameter from most of its length and is completely enclosed and buried.

In his 25 years with the Water Resources Commission, [redacted] has never encountered any type of pressure from Mr. FORD in any way.

[redacted] advised that based upon his knowledge of Mr. FORD, he would not hesitate to recommend him for the position of Vice President of the United States. He knows nothing of an unfavorable nature concerning Mr. FORD. His character, reputation, loyalty, associates and morals have always been of the highest level, and completely above reproach.

[redacted] advised that he had no knowledge whatsoever relative to Mr. FORD's campaign financing. [redacted] said he is aware of the fact that Mr. FORD is an attorney, but is under the impression that he has had very little, if any, practice in the field of law.

DE 161-1355
RWM/bjk - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 18, 1973, at
Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted] [redacted] Water Resources Commission, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he does not know GERALD R. FORD, JR. except by reputation. He further advised that he is not familiar with any complaint regarding the Silver Creek drainage ditch or any complaint against the Ford Paint and Varnish Company.

[redacted] advised that he had personally searched the files of the Water Resources Commission as far back as 1950, without finding any reference, file, or other communication regarding any investigation or action taken against either Ford Paint and Varnish Company or on a drainage ditch known as Silver Creek.

DE 161-1355
CDM/jms - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted] on October 17, 1973, at Lansing,
Michigan:

Senator WILLIAM S. BALLENGER, Republican, District 30, Lansing, Michigan, advised that he had a political acquaintance with GERALD R. FORD. He stated that the only negative information that had ever come to his attention was an incident in 1967 or 1968 when it was determined that GERALD FORD was a director for the Old Kent Bank, Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stated that FORD was accused of a conflict of interest and resigned his directorship. Mr. BALLENGER further advised that he had read a book entitled, "Washington Pay-Off", by author ROBERT WINNERBERGER (phonetic), in which certain derogatory statements were made concerning FORD. He stated that the only information he had heard other than that above, had been excellent regarding FORD's character and reputation in his community of Grand Rapids and his associates.

DE 161-1355
JFK/dmw - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [] on October 17, 1973, at Holland, Michigan:

[] Holland, business telephone number [] advised that he was aware of a book entitled "The Washington Payoff" written by a ROBERT WINTER-BERGER alleging a \$1,000.00 payment to [] [] stated that he was contacted by [] for a letter of introduction to Congressman GERALD R. FORD, JR. [] indicated to [] that she had a client who [] later learned was [] who wished to meet Mr. FORD because he, [] knew some people who wanted to contribute to the Republican campaign fund. [] stated that he did write a letter which he has since seen in a verbatim form. [] further stated that the book contained a reference to [] who was supposed to have been quite wealthy. [] advised that this was not true and that []

[] has consulted with [] regarding the alleged \$1,000.00 payment and she has denied receiving any payment from [] for the introduction to Mr. FORD. [] has advised [] that the letter which [] wrote was stolen by [] from [] files.

[] has only met [] once in his life and that was at the fund raising dinner referred to in Mr. WINTER-BERGER's book. [] stated that the story regarding conversation between himself and [] Mr. FORD, and RICHARD NIXON is completely false and he, [] has never spoken to Mr. NIXON in his entire life. [] stated that his recollection of the contact with Mr. FORD was that this brief contact did occur following the speeches at the fund raising dinner. Mr. NIXON was not present for the dinner but appeared for a speech and immediately departed the auditorium after his speech. [] stated that the alleged conversation regarding a lobbyist from General Electric was false inasmuch as Mr. NIXON did not confer with anyone following his speech.

DE 161-1355
JFK/dmw - 2

[] also stated that the alleged reference by Mr. FORD to his "good friend", [] did not occur and he could not recall [] name being mentioned by anyone who made a speech at that dinner. It was [] personal opinion that the book was written for the "fast buck" and [] characterized the book as "sensationalism at its worst".

[] was a professional name used by [] when she was employed by a public relations firm in New York City, New York, the name of which [] could not recall. [] is now married and is [] and resides in []

[] advised that he has known appointee since their high school days and considers him a good personal friend. [] felt that appointee was a very competent attorney when he was in private practice and he feels that appointee is a loyal and patriotic American. [] knew of nothing derogatory regarding appointee or his family and he advised that appointee's character, reputation, and morals are of the highest caliber.

IAB/dmw/psn - 1
DE 161-1355

ASSOCIATES

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted], at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

[redacted] Grand Rapids, advised that he moved to Grand Rapids in 1964 after graduating from the George Washington University Law School. In [redacted] at the age of [redacted] [redacted] was nominated by the Democratic Party to oppose the appointee in the United States Congressional race. [redacted] advised that he was soundly defeated by the appointee during this election. [redacted] advised that although he and the appointee were political opponents he had only the highest personal regard and admiration for the appointee. This campaign was limited to the issues and differences of personality were never a part of the campaign.

[redacted] pointed out that inasmuch as he did not move to the Grand Rapids area until 1964, he could not comment on the appointee's reputation or qualifications as an attorney.

[redacted] does not know who the appointee's close friends are. [redacted] stated that in recent years due to his heavy responsibilities in Washington, D.C., the appointee has spent very little time in the Grand Rapids area and is actually a stranger to most of his constituency.

During [redacted] campaign against the appointee, [redacted] heard a rumor to the effect that the appointee owns stock in the Ford Paint Company which is a corporation owned by his family. According to rumors circulated by low echelon labor leaders in the Democratic Party, the appointee owned stock in the company and as a result of Government contracts which specified the Ford paints he made quite a lot of money. Although [redacted] cannot recall the exact source of these rumors he does recall that at the time he did not consider the rumors to be reliable.

DE 161-1355
IAB/dmw/lk - 2

and he did not attempt in anyway to investigate or pursue the matter.

[] feels that the appointee's nomination is an excellent choice and he feels th appointee is fully qualified to become President should the need arise.

It is [] understanding that the appointee, if confirmed, does not plan to involve himself in the selection of his successor in Congress.

Although [] stated that he could not specifically discuss the appointee's view on Civil Rights, it is his opinion that the appointee follows what he would characterize as " the moderate Republican line ". [] believes that the appointee enjoys an excellent reputation with Blacks and other minority persons in the Grand Rapids area.

DE 161-1355
EWK/kpd -1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on October 19, 1973, at Grand Rapids, Michigan:

[redacted], Kooi Industrial Paint Company, 437 Spring Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan, advised that he has been employed by the Kooi Company for over ten years in the position of [redacted]. [redacted] stated that in his job he has contact with nearly all of the major paint manufacturers and contractors in western Michigan, although his company has not been awarded any recent government contracts. He stated that because of his vast business dealings with other paint contractors, he would most certainly be aware of any allegations regarding possible political favoritism by GERALD R. FORD in the area of paint contracting. [redacted] advised he has never heard such allegations and to the best of his knowledge, GERALD R. FORD has been fair in his dealings with all businessmen in western Michigan.

In conclusion, [redacted] stated he believes GERALD R. FORD eminently qualified to be appointed to any high United States Government position.

DE 161-1355
CDM/mpr - 1

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [REDACTED] at Lansing, Michigan, on October 16, 1973:

Senator CHARLES O. ZOLLAR, Republican, District 22, Benton Harbor, Michigan, advised that he has known GERALD FORD for approximately ten years, and stated that he had never heard any derogatory information or rumors or otherwise concerning GERALD FORD's character, moral, activities, reputation or loyalty to the country. He stated, however, that he had heard some years previous through rumor only that GERALD FORD had a previous marriage annulled. He stated that he had no basis of fact for this rumor and was providing it only as the only derogatory information he has ever heard connected with the FORD family.

It is to be noted that the appointee's brother, RICHARD FORD, under the caption "~~E~~mployment," advised that appointee has never been married except to his present wife.

DE 161-1355
PWH/bjk/pjf - 1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 17, 1973:

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b7c

[redacted] Fifth Congressional District Democratic Committee, 1508 McKay Towers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, telephone number [redacted] home address [redacted] Grand Rapids, telephone number [redacted] said that he has known Congressman FORD socially and professionally since 1946, and that he was active in the appointee's 1948 Congressional Campaign. [redacted] said that he and the appointee had a political parting of the ways in 1957 when [redacted] became active in the Democratic Party.

[redacted] said he liked and respected the appointee and felt him to be a man of high personal integrity. He said, however, that he did not believe that Mr. FORD was capable of assuming the Presidency (should the occasion arise) because of a lack of perceptiveness and judgment. [redacted] said he believed that the appointee was deficient in these qualities for two primary reasons. First, he objected to the appointee's alleged actions in preventing an investigation by the House Banking and Currency Committee of the Watergate break-in during the course of the 1972 Presidential Campaign. Secondly, he questioned Mr. FORD's judgment in helping to secure a job in the Treasury Department for G. GORDON LIDDY. [redacted] provided the following documents in support of these allegations:

1. Article by MAURY DE JONGE, "Grand Rapids Press," July 2, 1973.
2. Editorial Page, "Grand Rapids Press," July 15, 1973.
3. Article by RAY STEPHENS, "Grand Rapids Press", June 26, 1973.
4. Article by ROBERT LEWIS, "Grand Rapids Press,"
5. Grand Rapids Press Bureau Report, page 6A, "Grand Rapids Press," July 1, 1973.

DE 161-1355
PWH/pjk/mmr - 2

6. Article by J. F. TER HORST, page 16A,
"The Detroit News," July 31, 1973.
7. KLEINER's statement at a July 2, 1973,
press conference at the Pantlind Hotel,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

[] also said that he had recently been contacted
by [] the "New York
Times," who inquired whether he had any knowledge of []
[] of the Union Bank, Grand Rapids, charging
excessive interest rates and whether the appointee had ever
interceded in Washington on [] behalf. [] said he had
absolutely no knowledge of any such dealings and told the same
to []

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Local Democrats Challenge Ford on Watergate

By Maury DeJonge

Rep. Gerald R. Ford was challenged Monday by the chairman of the Fifth District Democratic Organization to respond to the testimony of John Dean that Ford stalled a Congressional investigation of Watergate last fall at the request of the White House.

The challenge was issued by A. Robert Kleiner, district chairman, who held a news conference at the Pantlind Hotel.

"WE ARE the loyal opposition, and if we didn't speak out we would be remiss in our responsibility," Kleiner declared. "We are going to organize and do everything in 1974 to see that the people who tolerate this action (Watergate burglary) are not elected to office."

Kleiner said that under oath, "and with an offer to take a lie-detector test," Dean, former legal adviser to President Richard M. Nixon, "has accused Gerry Ford of stalling a Congressional investigation of Watergate at the request of the White House during last fall's presidential election."

RESPONDING TO that charge, Ford said that on Oct. 3, 1972, the House Banking

and Currency Committee voted 20 to 15 against the investigation.

"All 14 Republican members of the committee voted against the proposed investigation," he continued. "but so did six Democrats." Ford said if the six had voted to proceed with the investigation, "the vote would have been 21 to 14 to go ahead with the probe."

"It is therefore ridiculous for Fifth District Democrats—or for that matter, for Democrats anywhere—to charge that Republicans blocked an investigation of Watergate by the House Banking and Currency Committee."

Kleiner said Ford's response to Dean's charge is only that Dean "is not correct" and "to the best of my recollection, the White House never talked to me about this matter. Either John Dean or Mr. Ford is not telling the truth. They can't both be right."

Kleiner said Ford "should, and we challenge him to voluntarily appear before the Senate Ervin Committee and testify under oath as to the facts surrounding his activities in stopping the investigation last fall."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Date: 7/2/73

Edition:

Author: MAURY DeJONGE

Editor: WERNER VIET

Title:

Character:

or

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☐ Being Investigated

THE DISTRICT chairman said more than Watergate would be involved in the 1974 congressional campaign. He cited "police-state activities" of the administration, and said some Republicans have called the Democratic organization in search of support if they should choose to run against Ford in a primary campaign.

Kleiner said that whoever the Democratic candidate is "it will be a person of whom we can be proud." Democrats have had difficulties in recent campaigns to find a candidate to run against Ford.

He also challenged Ford to tell the people "why he has not expressed one word of concern about the immoral and unconstitutional acts of Mr. Nixon and the White House gang, and I use that word advisedly."

Other unconstitutional acts cited by Kleiner are: Establishment of a National Surveillance Agency to "violate" the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens; the White House "plumbers" who stole documents from Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's physician; circulation of false documents about the morals of Democratic presidential candidates; compiling a list of political "enemies" and the use of the Internal

Revenue Service and other federal agencies to harass and intimidate them.

KLEINER also cited White House spending of \$2 million in cash for various "illegal schemes: having the acting director of the FBI destroy evidence; ordering the CIA to delay an FBI investigation, and the promise of executive clemency in an effort "to buy perjury and obstruct justice"

Kleiner said that Ford "has continued in his role as congressional errand boy and apologist for the corrupt Nixon Administration."

Ford said an investigation "would have interfered with the proper prosecution of the suspects arrested in connection with the Watergate break-in and would have been interpreted as infringing on their constitutional right to a fair trial."

Ford said the White House "did not even discuss this matter with me in advance of the Oct. 2 meeting of the Banking and Currency Committee."

"For anyone to try to tie me in with Watergate because of the vote Oct. 3, 1972... against an investigation of Watergate is utterly ridiculous. Such charges are a complete fabrication without any basis in fact," Ford declared.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rep. Brown and Watergate

Perhaps U.S. Rep. Garry Brown of Scholcraft doth protest too much.

The congressman's name has been floating on the fringes of the Watergate affair since early last fall when the House Banking and Currency Committee voted 20-15 against holding a public hearing on the burglary incident and possible irregularities in the financing of President Nixon's re-election campaign.

According to Congressional Quarterly at the time, "Opposition to the hearings was led by committee members Garry Brown, who acknowledge the support of the Justice Department but denied the White House counsel John Dean said "Brown had indicated his willingness to assist" the White House in efforts to head off an investigation by the House committee.

Brown, understandably upset over the effects of such unanswered testimony on the folks back home, has issued strong denials that the White House pressured his vote in any way. The congressman has been seeking in vain to appear before Sen. Sam Ervin's committee to refute Dean's testimony.

However, instead of resting his case with a flat denial and repated plea to offer sworn testimony, Brown now has taken to explaining his vote and, in retrospect, hedging on the certainty of his earlier convictions. In so doing he is seriously weakening his defense.

The meat of the matter — whether the Administration used illegal means to obstruct and cloak the Watergate investigation until after the November 1972 presidential election — is related directly to the Brown controversy. That such a coverup took place has since been confirmed by testimony from White House officials including, most recently, John Mitchell. The House committee was the last hope — or last threat, depending on how you look at it — to launch a major congressional investigation of Watergate before the election, and therefore GOP motivation to kill off the attempt was great.

Brown now makes a good deal out of his fears that a House investigation would disrupt criminal court action in the case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2B

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS
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the most intensive, objective and thorough... in many years, reaching out to cities all across the United States as well as into foreign countries." It was apparent to everyone that the Justice Department hadn't even gotten close to finding out who authorized and financed the break-in, and it wasn't about to pursue the matter.

That Brown was so eager to buy that ludicrous line from Kleindienst, instead of exercising the least independent observation and judgment, knocks for a loop his present claim that he considered the proposed Banking Committee investigation "blatently political."

Further, Brown now explains that "My position would have been different if I knew prior to the Oct. 3 committee vote what I know now. The committee probably should have gone ahead with the investigation."

If Brown had been paying attention, he would have known, prior to Oct. 3, that a Miami film processor had admitted handling photographs of Democratic headquarters documents for two of the arrested Watergate burglars; he would have known that James McCord and G. Gordon Liddy, both employees of the Committee to Re-elect the President, had been snared red-handed, and he would have known that the Washington Post published the story that White House money controlled by Mitchell and collected by Maurice Stans had been used to pay off Watergate burglars.

That was the information already available to Brown when he helped to lead the charge to stop the House inquiry. Surely it should have provided sufficient fact and suspicion to arouse doubts in an open mind.

Article appearing in The Grand Rapids Press,
Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 26, 1973, Page 1-E.

**DEAN'S TESTIMONY DISPUTES BROWN
BY RAY STEPHENS**

WASHINGTON- John W. Dean III testified Monday that Rep. Garry Brown, R. Schoolcraft, and House Republican leaders acted at the behest of the White House in blocking a congressional investigation of Watergate during last year's presidential campaign.

The former White House counsel named Brown in testimony before the Senate Select Committee investigating the burglary of Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate, and subsequent efforts to cover-up White House involvement in the crime. He did not further identify "House Republican leaders."

Both Brown and House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Grand Rapids, have previously acknowledged that they played leading roles in blocking an investigation by The House Banking and Currency Committee.

However, they have insisted that they acted upon their own initiative, and they were neither asked nor pressured by the White House to intervene.

Reached a few minutes after Dean testified, Brown said the former Nixon aide, who was fired last May 22, was either "inaccurate or lying."

Ford issued a statement repeating that the White House never approached me about the investigation.

In his testimony, Dean said that sometime in early to mid-August of last year, the White House learned that the Banking Committee chairman, Rep. Wright Patman, D-Tex., had ordered his staff to begin a preliminary investigation of the Watergate incident.

"At some point in time during these investigations," he said, "Mr. Parkinson was put in touch with Congressman Garry Brown, who was a member of the Banking and Currency Committee.

At that time Parkinson was a legal counsel in the Committee to Re-elect the President, and his name has figured prominently in various aspects of the Senate investigation."

Conflicts with Brown

Dean's account conflicts with Brown's version, who said he didn't even know about the Banking Committee probe until he heard it on a radio newscast while visiting his district.

"To the best of my recollection," Dean continued, "this may have resulted in discussions between members of the White House congressional relations staff with the Republican members of the Banking and Currency Committee to determine who would be most helpful on the committee and Brown indicated his willingness to assist."

"On Sept. 8, Brown sent a letter to the attorney general regarding the forthcoming appearance of former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans and others before the Patman committee, which was in fact drafted by Parkinson for Congressman Brown."

Brown replied that "Dean is inaccurate or lying if he says Parkinson wrote that letter. I dictated it myself."

In the letter, Brown sought a Justice Department opinion on whether public hearings by a House committee would be prejudicial to the rights of the seven men then charged with the Watergate break-in to a fair trial.

Dean went on to testify that then Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst and Asst. Atty. Gen. Harry Petersen, who heads the department's Criminal Division, were reluctant to reply immediately to Brown's letter. He said the officials felt a letter would "look like a direct effort to block the hearings and I frankly had to agree."

Discussion with Nixon

But, when Patman continued to pursue his investigation, Dean said there was a brief discussion of the matter with President Nixon on Sept. 15, whereupon "the White House became more involved in dealing with the Patman committee."

"On Sept. 25, Chairman Patman announced that he would hold a vote on Oct. 3 regarding the issuing of subpoenas to witnesses," Dean testified. "With this announcement, the White House congressional staff began talking with members of the committee as well as the Republican leadership of the House."

"I began to get increasing pressure from (former Attorney General John) Mitchell, Stans, Parkinson and others to get the Justice Department to respond to the Sept. 8 letter of Congressman Brown as the vehicle that Congressman Brown could use in persuading others not to vote in favor of the subpoenas."

The committee voted 30 to 15 to deny subpoena power Patman.

Brown again emphasized that the letter was sent Aug. 31. Dean referred to it as Brown's "Sept. 8 letter" long before the White House meeting.

Ford's response was that "Mr. Dean's statement is not correct."

"It is inaccurate in that it was the Republican members of the Banking and Currency Committee who asked me to call a meeting so that they could discuss with the House Republican leadership the situation in the full committee," Ford said.

"To the best of my recollection, the White House never talked to me about this matter."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ford Denies Nixon Acted to Halt Probe

By ROBERT LEWIS

(Grand Rapids Press Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Two Michigan congressmen who played key roles last fall in blocking a House investigation of the Watergate case continued to insist Wednesday that they acted on their own initiative and not President Nixon's.

John Dean, the former White House counsel, reportedly has told Senate investigators that Nixon instructed his chief congressional liaison officer, William Timmons, to stall a Watergate investigation by Rep. Wright Patman, D-Tex., chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee.

House GOP Leader Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids called two meetings of Republican members of Patman's committee to discuss the Watergate probe. But Ford said Wednesday that the sessions were called at the urging of committee Republicans.

"I never had any request from the White House to get together with Republican members of the Banking and Currency Committee regarding Watergate," Ford said.

Brown Led in Blocking Probe

Rep. Garry E. Brown of Schoolcraft, fifth-ranking Republican on the committee, took the lead in blocking Patman's probe.

"I had no contact with Timmons to the best of my recollection," Brown said.

A summary of Dean's preliminary testimony to the staff of the Senate Watergate investigating committee, leaked to the press Monday, included this paragraph:

"Nixon said Timmons should get on the Patman hearings and make sure it didn't get out of hand. White House and CRP (Committee for the Re-election of the President) blocked Patman hearings by bringing pressure on people to vote against subpoenaing witnesses."

Nixon's instructions were given at a meeting attended by Dean and former presidential assistant H. R. Haldeman, according to Dean's preliminary testimony. The date was sometime after Sept. 15, 1973, when seven men were indicted for the Watergate break-in.

Brown Began Earlier

Brown had begun more than two weeks before Sept. 15 to derail the investigation. He argued that the House hearings would prejudice the right to a fair trial of those involved in Watergate—a position echoed recently by Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Brown has said that Richard Cook, a member of Timmons' staff, called "after the issue was half-way down the road to ask how things were going."

"His contacts with me were always in the form of an inquiry, not a request," Brown said in a recent interview.

Asked again about Cook's contacts in light of Dean's disclosures, Brown said it's possible that Cook was assigned by Timmons to watch Patman's proposed investigation, but at a point in time when the issue was already settled.

By Press Wire Services

Meanwhile Dean has told Senate investigators that late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover informed President Nixon that

(Continued on page 2A, column 3)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Watergate Role Denied By Brown

(Grand Rapids Press Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Rep. Garry Brown, R-Schoolcraft, formally denied Friday in a letter to the Senate Watergate Committee that he took any part in the Watergate cover-up, and his accuser promptly backed off.

The congressman's letter was read into the hearing record by Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., who said a sworn statement being prepared by Brown would be admitted later.

Brown's letter demanded that he be given an opportunity to personally testify, contending that neither his letter of denial nor a sworn statement would be sufficient to counter charges made against him by John W. Dean III, former White House counsel.

BAKER FIRST said that Brown, as a member of Congress, would be granted that courtesy, but later he turned to the committee chairman, Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., and suggested the request "be taken under advisement" after the sworn statement is received.

In his opening statement Monday, Dean charged that Brown's successful fight in stopping a Watergate investigation by the House Banking and Currency Committee during last year's election campaign was orchestrated by the White House.

He said Brown was enlisted after White House lobbyists sounded out Banking Committee Republicans and found that Brown was willing to help.

Brown again denied that statement, reiterating his contention that he acted on his own initiative and never was contacted by the White House.

As Sen. Baker began to read the congressman's letter, Dean interrupted. "Sen. Baker, I think I should say regarding White House efforts to stop that investigation that the persons on the other end of those dealings weren't always aware of the White House motives. I didn't mean to imply that Congressman Brown knew what was going on."

As Sen. Baker began to read the congressman's letter, Dean interrupted. "Sen. Baker, I think I should say regarding White House efforts to stop that investigation that the persons on the other end of those dealings weren't always aware of the White House motives. I didn't mean to imply that Congressman Brown knew what was going on."

Baker resumed reading the letter, in which Brown again took issue with Dean's accusation that a letter he wrote the Justice Department actually was drafted by Kenneth Parkinson, then a lawyer for the Committee to Re-elect the President.

Brown's first reaction Monday was that "Dean is either inaccurate or he is a liar."

The letter was the key element in stopping Banking Committee Chairman Wright Patman, D-Tex., from launching a Watergate investigation. In it, Brown asked the Justice Department for a legal opinion as to whether public hearings would jeopardize the right of seven men then under indictment for the Watergate burglary to a fair trial.

The Justice Department dithered almost four weeks before finally replying that it did believe such hearings would be prejudicial, citing in support the same precedent suggested by Brown.

ON THE BASIS of that letter, Republican members won six Democrats to their position, and voted down Patman's request for subpoena power 20 to 15.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Gerald Ford tells how he helped Liddy get a job

In today's installment of a series on the career of Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, writers Barry Cunningham and James Norman report that it was a Michigan congressman, Gerald Ford, the House minority leader, who was responsible for first getting Liddy to a government job in Washington. Detroit News Washington Bureau Chief J. F. Ter Horst questioned Ford about the incident. This is his report.

By J. F. TER HORST

Chief of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford admits freely, if somewhat regretfully, that he probably helped G. Gordon Liddy take the first step up the ladder of Watergate fame.

It happened back in the campaign year of 1965 when the Michigan lawmaker traveled to Dutchess County, N.Y., to speak on behalf of Hamilton Fish Jr., Republican candidate for Congress in the Poughkeepsie area, and other GOP office holders.

Liddy had lost to Fish in the

primary after a career as a swashbuckling assistant prosecutor and then was busy promoting the "Citizens for Nixon-Agnew" drive in the county. Ford recalls Liddy as one of the mavericks at the rally at which Ford spoke.

But let the congressman from Grand Rapids tell the story:

"After my talk, the Dutchess County Republican leaders, including Ham Fish, came up to me and asked if I didn't know of some job in Washington that might appeal to Liddy.

"I didn't know him at all, but he seemed energetic and they seemed anxious to help him, so I said I'd see what I could do.

"Well, it turned out the Dutchess County Republicans were anxious to have Liddy move on, out to some place else. I remember their telling me that he was a political puzzle to them because, for one thing, they didn't know whom he might run against next time."

AFTER THE ADVENT of

the Nixon administration in 1969, Ford obtained a resume from Liddy and a handful of endorsement letters from Dutchess County officials, including Fish and County GOP Chairman George Reid, as he recalls. Liddy, a former FBI agent, said he would prefer a job in the Justice Department or in the enforcement division of the Treasury Department.

Ford said he sent Liddy's name and the backup material to the White House talent-hunting office, which was then busily trying to match interested Nixon supporters with jobs in the administration.

"I also called Gene Rossides at Treasury," Ford recalls. "That may have clinched it for Liddy because he came to Washington to become special assistant to Eugene T. Rossides, then head of the Treasury Department's anti-crime enforcement division, in April, 1969.

"I didn't pay any more attention to him after that," says Ford. "He was just one of the many persons I tried to help get jobs."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16A

THE DETROIT NEWS
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Editor: MARTIN HAYDEN

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☐ Being Investigated

Liddy next popped up on Ford's political radar screen as a key figure in the Treasury Department's Operation Intercept, a highly touted administration attempt to halt narcotics smuggling from Mexico. It was aborted eventually after diplomatic controversy with

the Mexican government and allegations of high-handed and unsuccessful tactics in the border states. Liddy was dismissed from his Treasury Department job in 1971.

"THE NEXT I HEARD about Liddy was when it was announced that he had been

named general counsel of the Committee for the Re-election of the President in 1972," Ford said.

That was after Liddy's stint as a sleuth for the secret White House "plumbers" unit which was set up on President Nixon's orders to ferret out national security leaks. Its

work included the break-in in the office of the psychiatrist for Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case.

"I wondered about the Committee to Reelect picking Liddy," said Ford, "because by then I'd begun to pick up things, you know, that made me wonder about him."

Statement of A. Robert Kleiner, Chairman, Fifth Congressional District Democratic Committee, Press Conference, Monday, July 2, 1973, 9:00 A.M., Continental Room, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The time has come for Congressman Ford to account to the voters of the Fifth District as to his part in covering up the illegal burglary of the Watergate Democratic offices.

Under oath, and with an offer to take a lie-detector test, John Dean has accused Gerry Ford of stalling a Congressional investigation of Watergate at the request of the White House during last fall's presidential election.

Mr. Ford says Mr. Dean "is not correct" and says "to the best of my recollection, the White House never talked to me about this matter." Either John Dean or Mr. Ford is not telling the truth. They can't both be right.

GERRY FORD SHOULD, AND WE CHALLENGE HIM TO, VOLUNTARILY APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE ERVIN COMMITTEE AND TESTIFY UNDER OATH AS TO THE FACTS SURROUNDING HIS ACTIVITIES IN STOPPING THE INVESTIGATION LAST FALL.

Mr. Ford's accounting to the voters should not stop there. He should tell us why he has not expressed one word of concern about the immoral and unconstitutional acts of Mr. Nixon and the White House gang. Just a few of them include:

1. The establishment of a National Surveillance

Agency to violate the constitutional rights of the United States citizens.

2. The White House "plumbers" unit that stole documents from Dr. Ellsberg's physician and other illegal acts.
3. Circulating false documents about the morals of Democratic Presidential candidates.
4. Compiling a list of political "enemies" and the use of the Internal Revenue Service and other Federal agencies to harrass and intimidate them.
5. White House spending of \$2,000,000 in cash for various illegal schemes.
6. Having the acting director of the FBI destroy evidence.
7. Ordering the CIA to delay an FBI investigation.
8. The promise of executive clemency in an effort to buy perjury and obstruct justice.

Mr. Ford has continued in his role as Congressional errand boy and apologist for the corrupt Nixon administration. The voters deserve better than that.

If Mr. Ford understands his oath of office to "uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States", we could expect him to condemn these acts and take the lead in seeing that they are stopped. We hope he will give us the facts under oath and take some leadership in protecting us from these police state tactics.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

October 24, 1973

THE INVESTIGATION IN THIS CASE IS
NOT COMPLETE. THIS PORTION OF THE
INVESTIGATION CONSISTS OF PART V,
A REPORT FROM DETROIT, MICHIGAN,
DATED OCTOBER 20, 1973.

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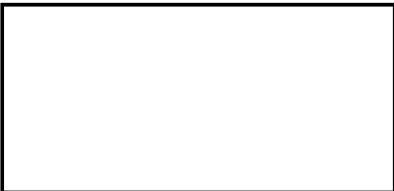
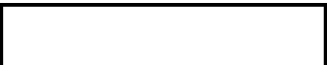
GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

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